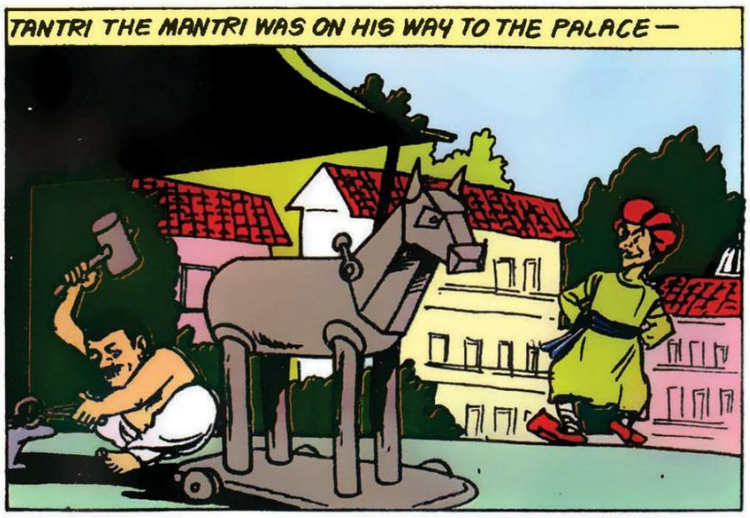
TINKLE PRESENTS

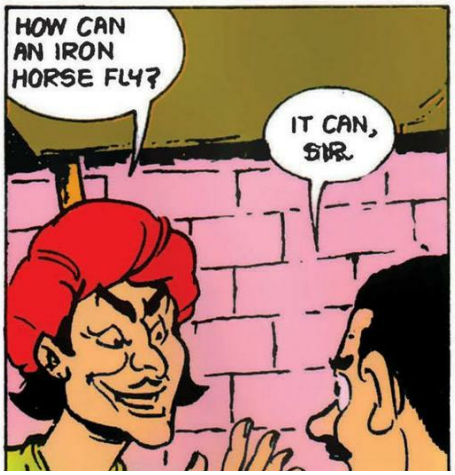
TANTRI THE MANTRI-2

A Collection of Stories from 30 Years of TINKLE

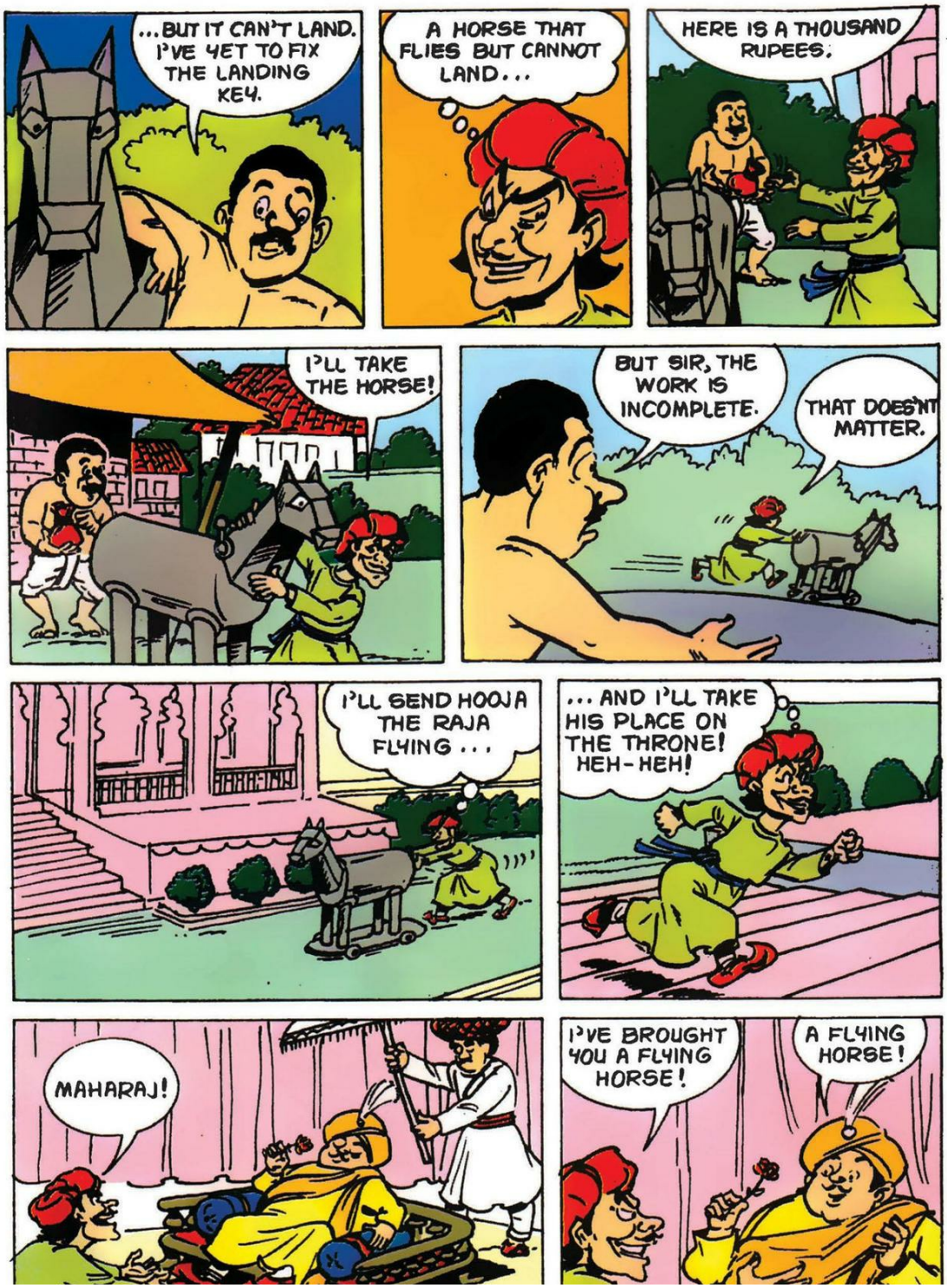
TANTRI THE MANTRI

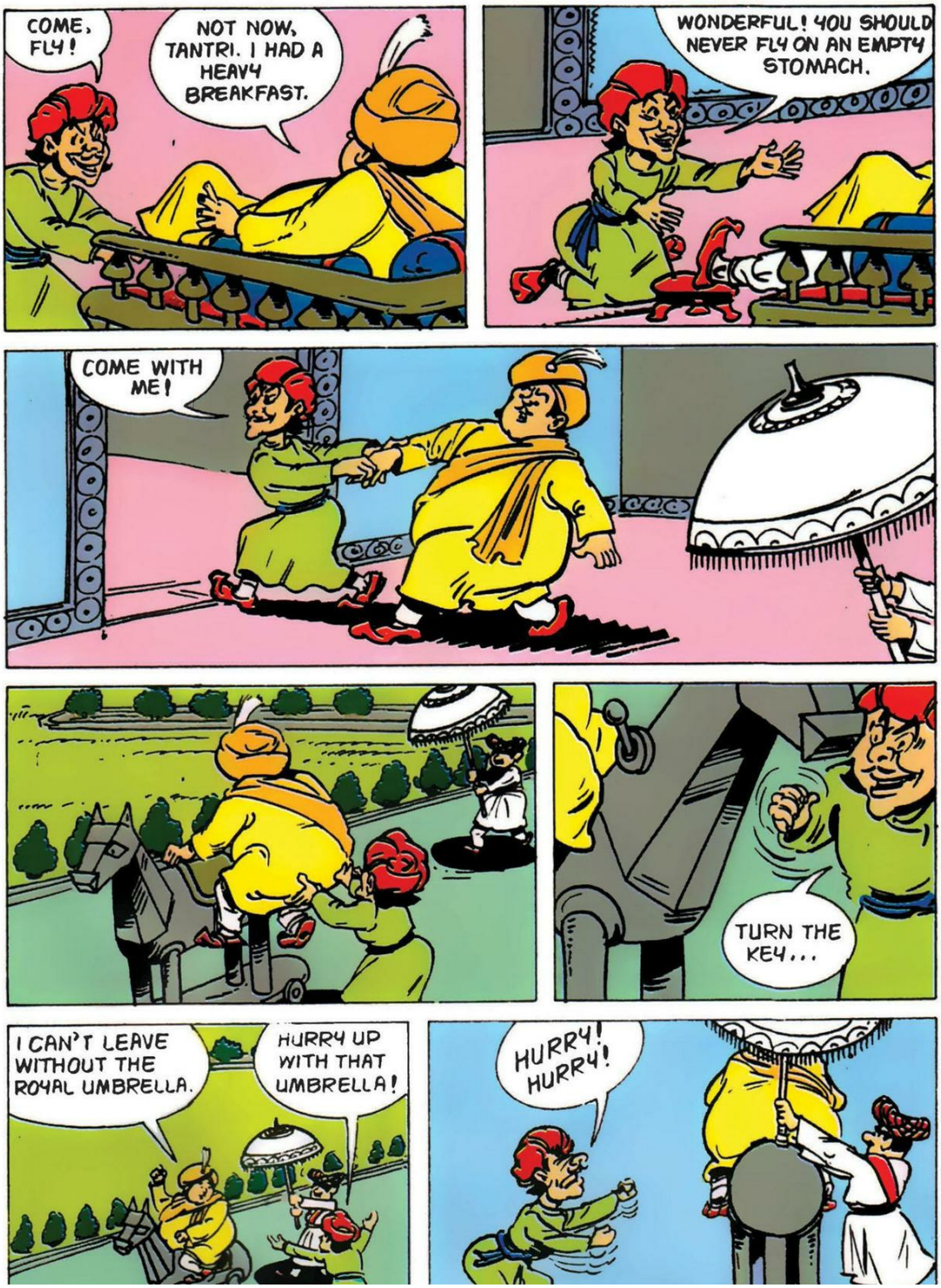
Script: Appaswami
Illustrations: Ashok Dongre



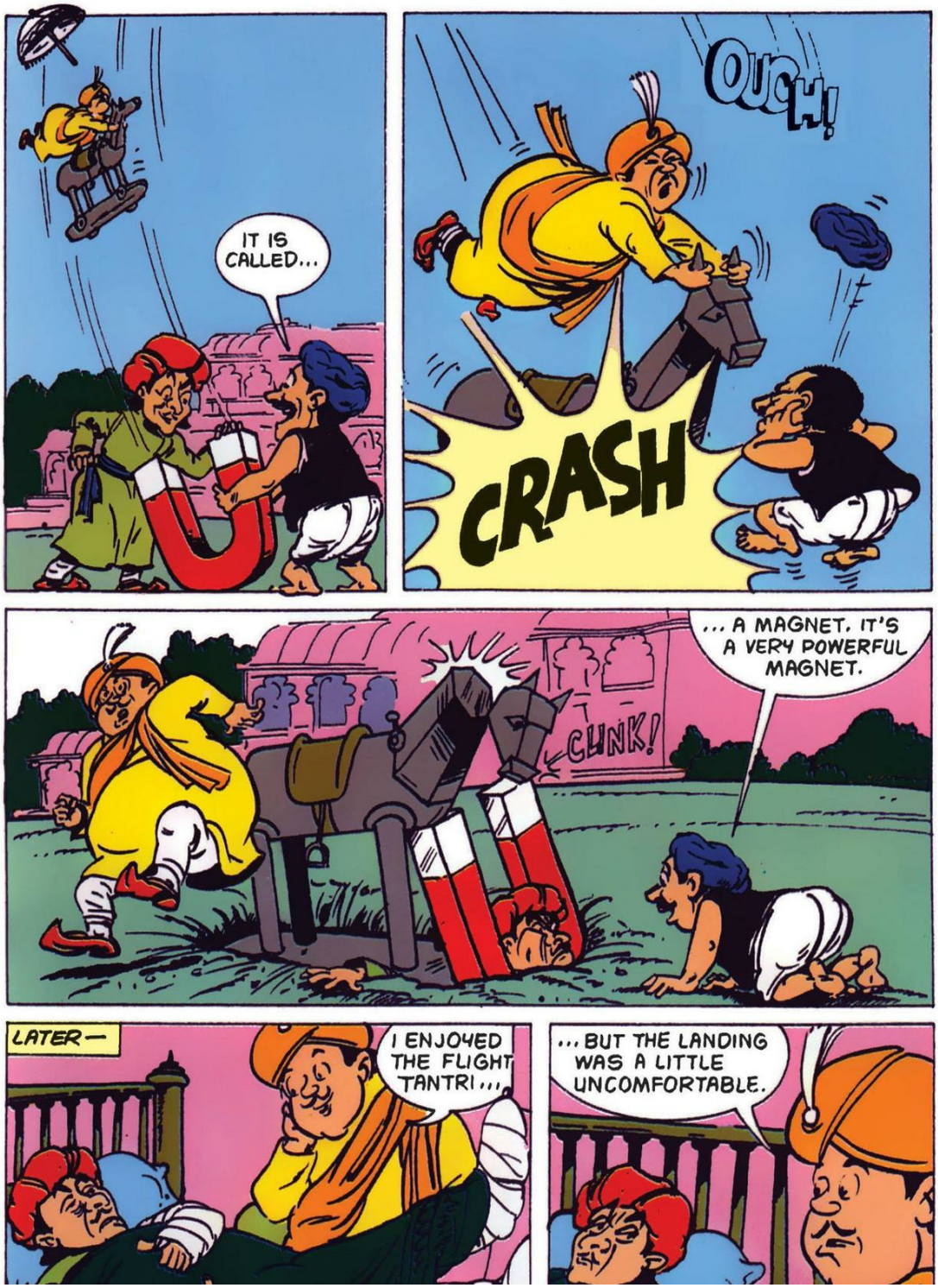


1


...BUT IT CAN'T LAND. I'VE YET TO FIX THE LANDING KEY.
A HORSE THAT FLIES BUT CANNOT LAND...
HERE IS A THOUSAND RUPEES.
I'LL TAKE THE HORSE!
BUT SIR, THE WORK IS INCOMPLETE.
THAT DOESN'T MATTER.
I'LL SEND HOOJA THE RAJA FLYING...
...AND I'LL TAKE HIS PLACE ON THE THRONE! HEH-HEH!
MAHARAJ!
I'VE BROUGHT YOU A FLYING HORSE!
A FLYING HORSE!


COME, FLY!
NOT NOW, TANTRI. I HAD A HEAVY BREAKFAST.
WONDERFUL! YOU SHOULD NEVER FLY ON AN EMPTY STOMACH.
COME WITH ME!
TURN THE KEY...
I CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT THE ROYAL UMBRELLA.
HURRY UP WITH THAT UMBRELLA!
HURRY! HURRY!

NOW TURN THE KEY... KEY...
YAHOO!
HE'S GONE!
NOW I'LL BE THE RAJA!
SIR!
?
YOU?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY THIS?
WHAT IS THIS?


IT IS CALLED...
OUCH!
CRASH
... A MAGNET. IT'S A VERY POWERFUL MAGNET.
CLINK!
LATER—
I ENJOYED THE FLIGHT TANTRI...
... BUT THE LANDING WAS A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE.

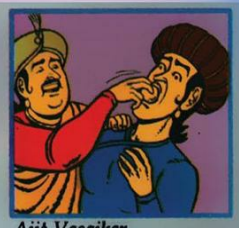
Changing Times

In the two decades from 1984 to 2004 several artists and writers worked on the Tantri series at different times. Ajit Vasaikar who succeeded Dongre as artist shared Shakespeare's view that villains should have a 'lean and hungry look'. He changed Tantri's appearance beyond recognition, turning him into a beanpole. Hooja took on a beefy appearance and lost his air of innocence. The next artist, Anand Mande, continued in the same vein, but gave both men longer, fleshier noses and better headgear.

Another radical change in the physical appearance of the protagonists occurred towards the end of the 1990s when Savio Mascarenhas became the main artist for the series. Savio gave both Tantri and Hooja a facelift, and reduced the difference in their heights to practically nil. Savio had other commitments and was pressed for time, especially when he started illustrating the Shikari Shambu comics episodes. In 2000, the editors decided to hand over the responsibility of illustrating the Tantri series to Prachi Killekar. Prachi made a faltering start, confused by the different representations of Hooja and Tantri she had to choose from, but eventually came up with their present forms.

She continues to be the illustrator for the series.

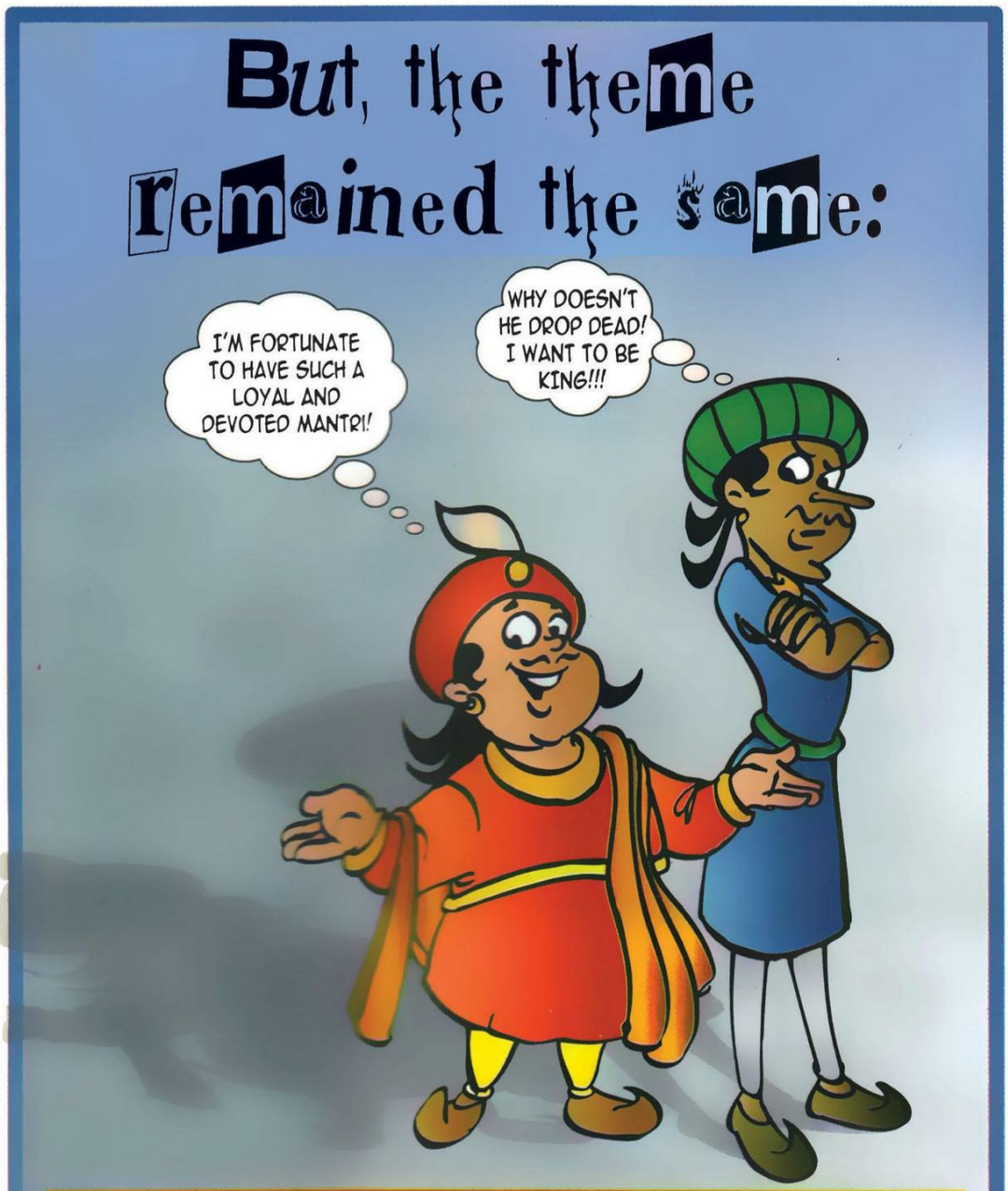
Ashok Dongre



Ajit Vasaikar

Anand Mande

Savio Mascarenhas



WRITERS

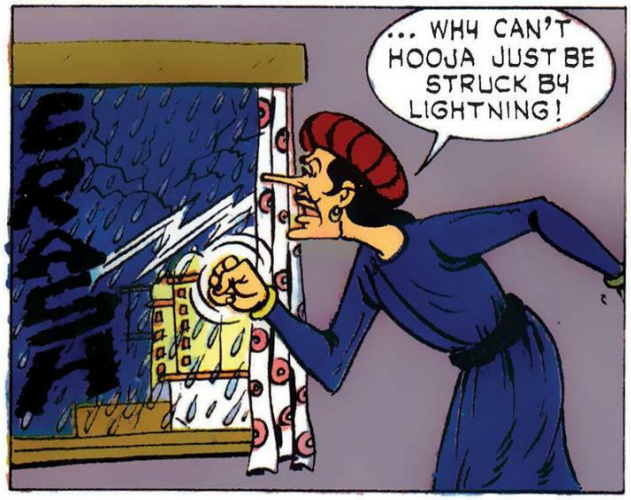
Many of the Tantri episodes are based on stories sent by Tinkle readers. But quite a few are written by professional comics writers – among them, Prasad Iyer, Luis Fernandes, Alok Mathur, Reena Puri, and in recent times, Rajani Thindiath and R. Nalini.

TANTRI THE MANTRI

UMBRELLA!

Based on a story sent by:
Amol Ashok Gopale,
Mumbai - 400 022.

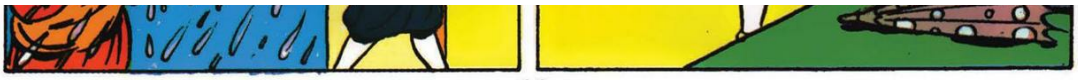
Illustrations :
Prachi Killekar



WELL... TANTRI SURE HAD BEEN STRUCK BY SOMETHING.

SOON —
HERE IT IS ! OPEN IT ON A DAY WHEN THERE IS LIGHTNING AND...
YYLLURP!
HEH ! HEH ! HOOJA MY FRIEND... ASHES TO ASHES... EH ?
RAJA DOOJA HAS SENT THIS UMBRELLA FOR YOUR KING.
COULD IT BE POSSIBLE ? COULD DOOJA BE AS DEVIOUS AS I AM...
... NAAH ! IT MUST BE HARMLESS. IT HAS TO BE !
TANTRI, LOOK WHAT DOOJA SENT ME.
IT SEEMS TO BE YOUR DAY FOR UMBRELLAS, YOUR MAJESTY.
... I GOT YOU ONE TOO.
AH, LET'S GO OUT ! I LOVE...
♪... SINGING IN THE RAIN. ♪
ER... SHOULD YOU BE TRUSTING DOOJA, YOUR MAJESTY ?

OH, YOU'RE RIGHT... I'LL USE YOUR UMBRELLA INSTEAD.
YIPPEE!
IT'S RAINING, IT'S POURING THE OLD MAN IS...
...ULP!
YOU SILLY, GOAT!
BYE BYE, SWEET UMBRELLA. BYE BYE!
GRRR...
SORRY TANTRI. I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO USE DOOJA'S NOW.
I'LL GET IT YOUR MAJESTY.
BUT —
ULP! I NEVER REALIZED BOTH THE UMBRELLAS LOOKED THE SAME... IS THIS DOOJA'S...



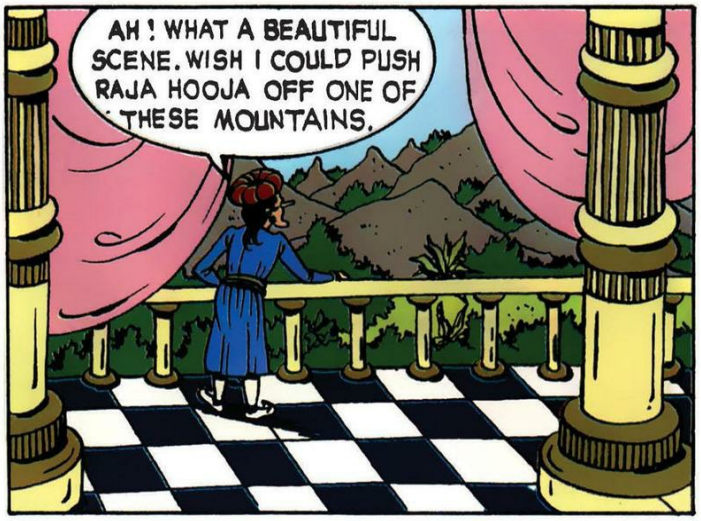
HURRY UP, TANTRI. IT'S POURING.
... OR WAS THAT HIS?
C... COMING GULP!
OPEN THE UMBRELLA, TANTRI, YOU'LL GET DRENCHED.
I... I HOPE THIS IS NOT MINE.
BUT JUST AS HE OPENED IT—
CRASH
TANTRI! ARE YOU OKAY!?
GAH!
HE SAVED ME AGAIN. DOOJA'S UMBRELLA WAS A CLEVER TRICK.
MEANWHILE, BACK AT DUSHTABUDDHI'S HOUSE —
HEH! HEH! HEH! ONE IDEA FROM TANTRI, TWO UMBRELLAS AND DOUBLE THE MONEY. COULD THERE BE ANYONE MORE EVIL THAN I?

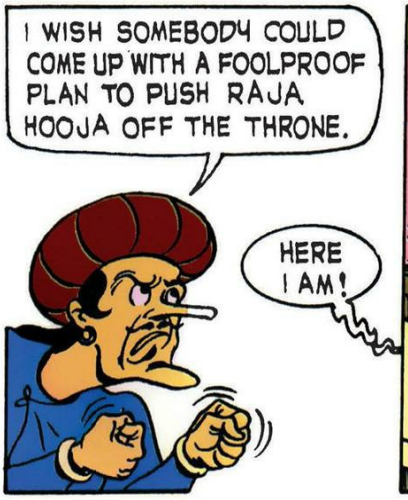
TANTRI THE MANTRI

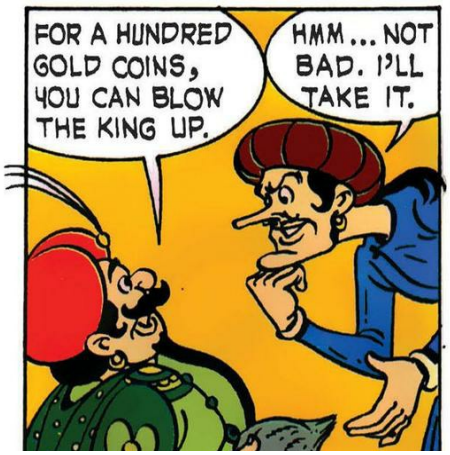
Coconut Bomb

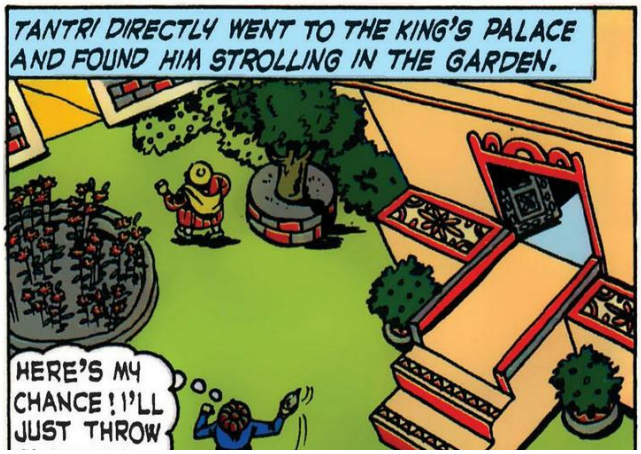
Based on a story sent by:
H. S. Vinay.

Illustrations :
Prachi Killekar









IT ON HIM.

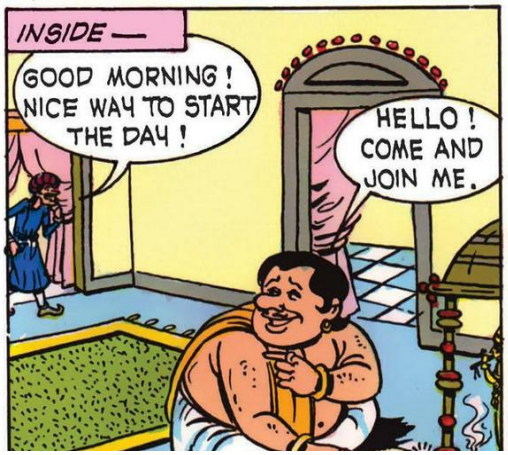
OH, TANTRI, A SURPRISE VISIT, EH ? WHAT ARE YOU DOING AND WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR HAND ?
I.. ER..UMMM.. ..AH.. I WAS JUST TRYING TO SEE WHETHER YOU WOULD CATCH THIS OR NOT.
REMEMBERING CHILDHOOD, HUH ? A GAME OF CATCH-CATCH ? I'M GAME.
HEH HEH !
MAYBE, A CHANCE !
I'LL THROW THE COCONUT FIRST. GO STAND AT A DISTANCE.
HUH ? OKAY.
OH GOD ! SAVE ME.
READY ? HERE YOU ARE.
MASTER, THERE ARE VISITORS FOR YOU INSIDE.
ALL RIGHT.
TANTRI, I'M SORRY. SOME OTHER TIME, THEN.
YIKES ! AS YOU SAY, SIRE.
THAT NIGHT, AT A FEAST IN THE PALACE —
SIRE, I HAVE A SUGGESTION FOR YOUR GOOD FORTUNE.
YES, TANTRI, WHAT IS IT ?

BEFORE YOU ADDRESS THE GATHERING, WHY DON'T YOU BREAK THE COCONUT ? IT'LL BE AN AUSPICIOUS BEGINNING.
HA HA ! TANTRI, I NEVER KNEW YOU'D BE SO SUPERSTITIOUS. LET'S JUST GET ON WITH THE FEAST.

DRAT ! ANOTHER PLAN DOWN THE DRAIN. WHEN WILL I MANAGE TO GET RID OF THIS FATSO ?

LATER, IN HIS CHAMBER, AN IDEA STRUCK HIM.
AH ! YES ! TO REACH THE PALACE EARLY IN THE MORNING AND MY WORK'S AS GOOD AS DONE.

THE NEXT MORNING —
IS THE KING AWAKE ?
YES, HE IS SITTING AT HIS MORNING PRAYERS.


INSIDE —
GOOD MORNING ! NICE WAY TO START THE DAY !
HELLO ! COME AND JOIN ME.

YES, I'M COMING. I HAVE A COCONUT WITH ME. THE GODS WOULD BLESS YOU AND OUR KINGDOM IF YOU OFFER THIS.
GOOD IDEA ! BRING THE COCONUT OVER.

GREAT ! THE THRONE WILL BE MINE IN NO TIME.
HERE, SIRE - I AM CO.... CH... WHOA !
WATCH YOUR STEP, TANTRI !
TRIP
THUD
BOOM
IN TANTRI'S CHAMBER—
HOW ARE YOU, TANTRI ? SOME TRAITOR PLANNED TO HARM ME...
... BUT WITH YOU AROUND, I AM ALWAYS SAFE. THANK YOU!
MY DUTY, SIRE.

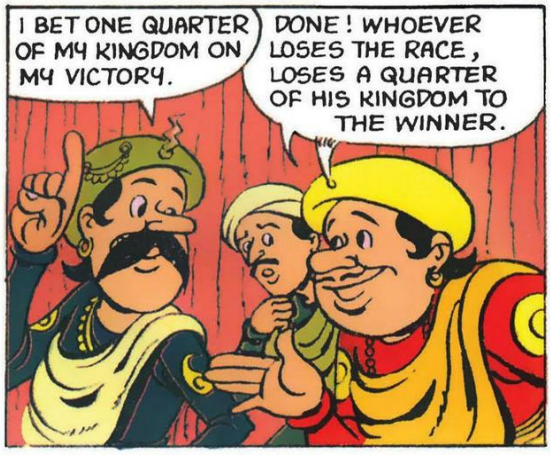
HOOJA COULD NOT IMAGINE ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THE BOMB AND THE COCONUT.

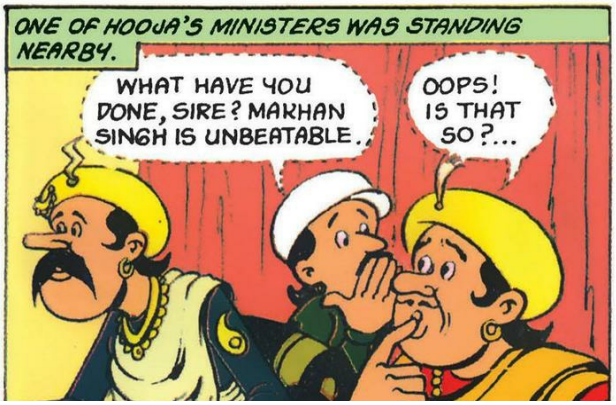
TANTRI THE MANTRI

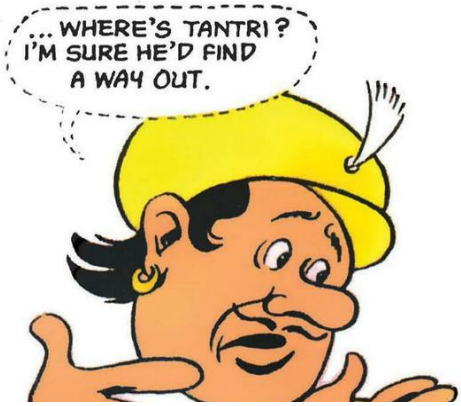
THE RECORD RUN

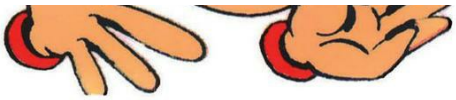
Based on a story sent by:
Sanjay B. Kulkarni,

Illustrations : Prachi Killekar







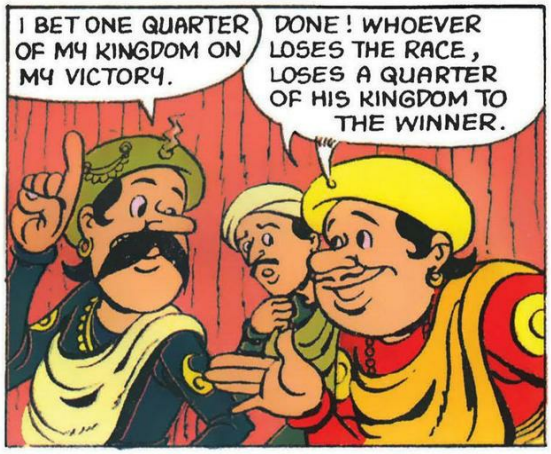


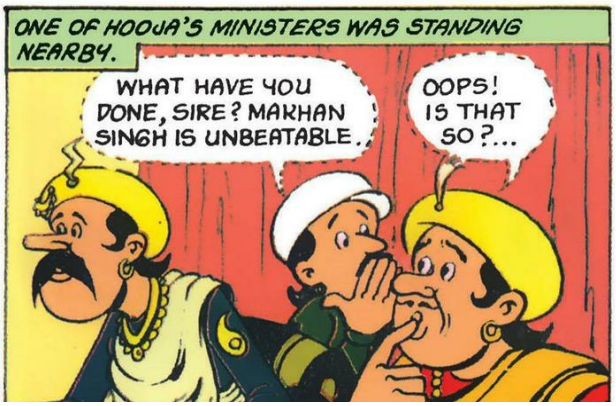
TANTRI THE MANTRI

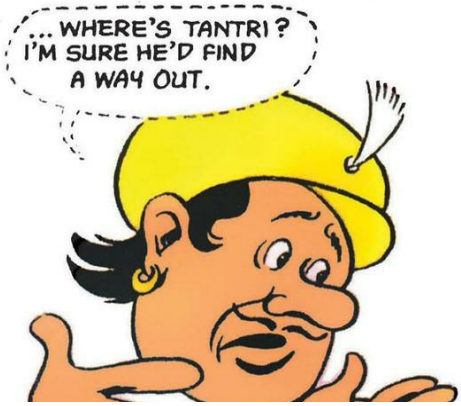
THE RECORD RUN

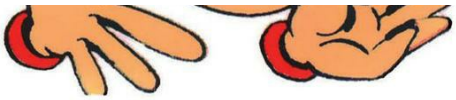
Based on a story sent by:
Sanjay B. Kulkarni,

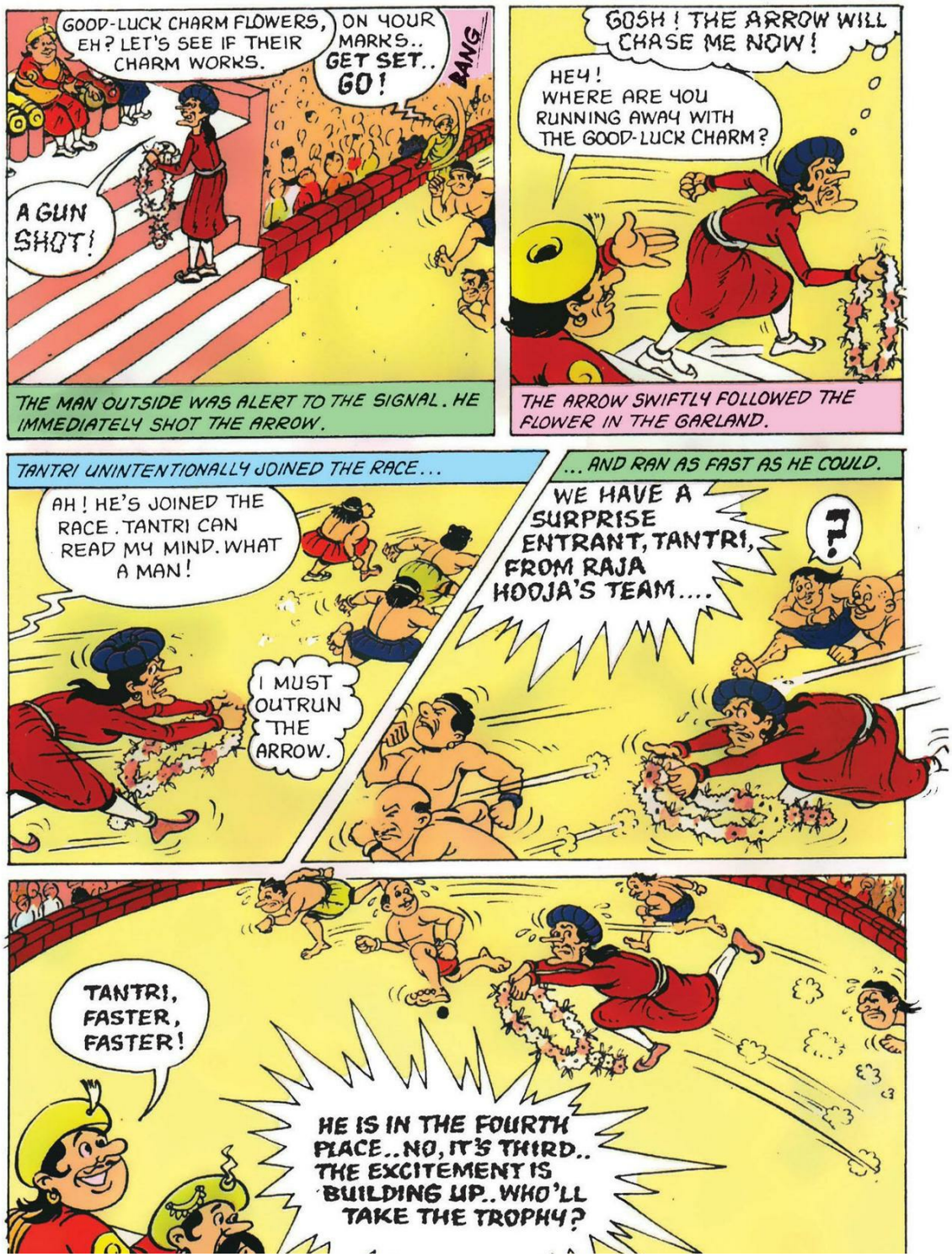
Illustrations : Prachi Killekar

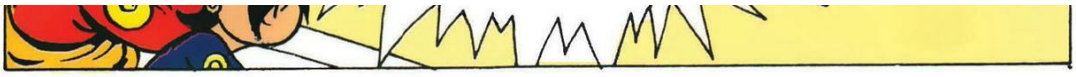




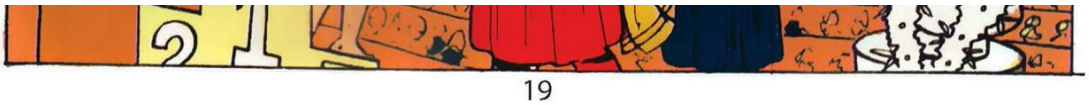





GOOD-LUCK CHARM FLOWERS, EH? LET'S SEE IF THEIR CHARM WORKS.
ON YOUR MARKS.. GET SET.. GO!
BANG
A GUN SHOT!
THE MAN OUTSIDE WAS ALERT TO THE SIGNAL. HE IMMEDIATELY SHOT THE ARROW.
GOSH! THE ARROW WILL CHASE ME NOW!
HEY! WHERE ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY WITH THE GOOD-LUCK CHARM?
THE ARROW SWIFTLY FOLLOWED THE FLOWER IN THE GARLAND.
TANTRI UNINTENTIONALLY JOINED THE RACE...
AH! HE'S JOINED THE RACE. TANTRI CAN READ MY MIND. WHAT A MAN!
I MUST OUTRUN THE ARROW.
... AND RAN AS FAST AS HE COULD.
WE HAVE A SURPRISE ENTRANT, TANTRI, FROM RAJA HOOJA'S TEAM....
?
TANTRI, FASTER, FASTER!
HE IS IN THE FOURTH PLACE.. NO, IT'S THIRD.. THE EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING UP.. WHO'LL TAKE THE TROPHY?



MAKHAN SINGH IS TRYING HARD TO MATCH TANTRI'S SPEED...
BRAVO, TANTRI!
...HE'S LEFT MAKHAN SINGH WAY BEHIND..NO DOUBT ABOUT THE WINNER!
FASTER.. FASTER.
THE ARROW TOO WAS GAINING SPEED.
IT CAME DANGEROUSLY CLOSE WHEN —
I'M FINISHED..BUT WHY AM I HOLDING ON TO THIS WRETCHED GARLAND? IT IS THIS THAT THE ARROW IS FOLLOWING....
TANTRI!
TANTRI
HE FLUNG THE GARLAND AWAY AND...
...REACHED THE FINISHING LINE.
THE WINNER IS TANTRI, FROM HOOJA'S TEAM.
OH! THERE GOES A QUARTER OF MY KINGDOM.
YAY!
SEE HOW WELL THE GOOD-LUCK CHARM WORKED!
?



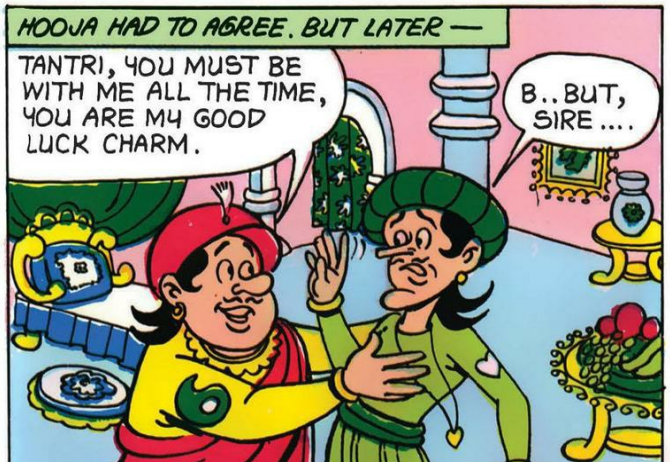
TANTRI THE MANTRI

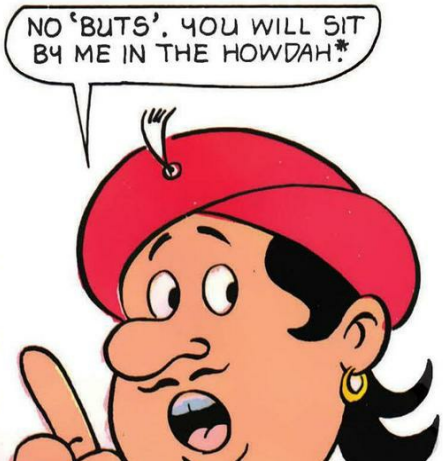
VALIANT HOOJA

Story :
S. Charulatha

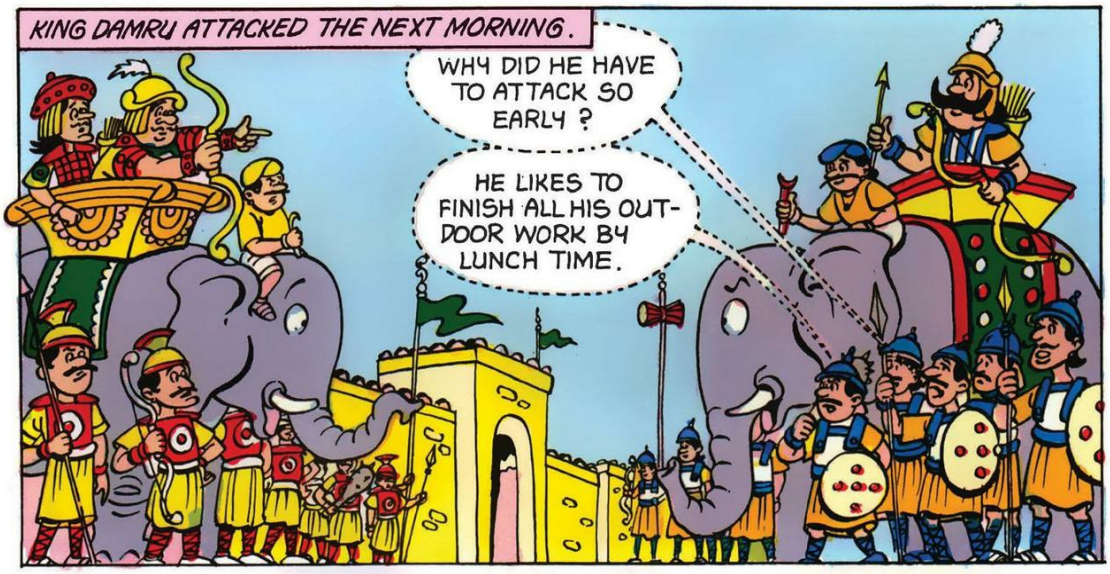
Script :
Reena I. Puri

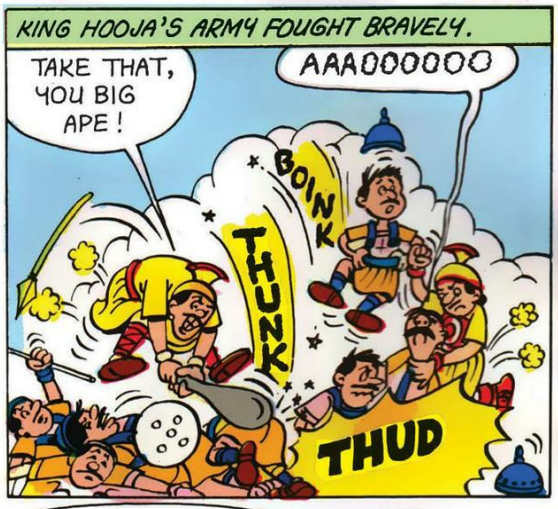
Illustrations :
Prachi Killekar





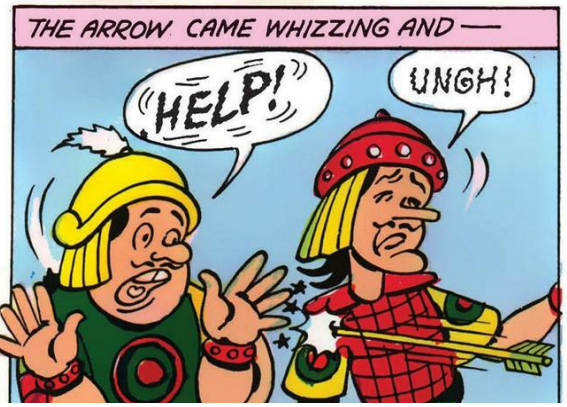
* DECORATED SEAT ON TOP OF AN ELEPHANT.

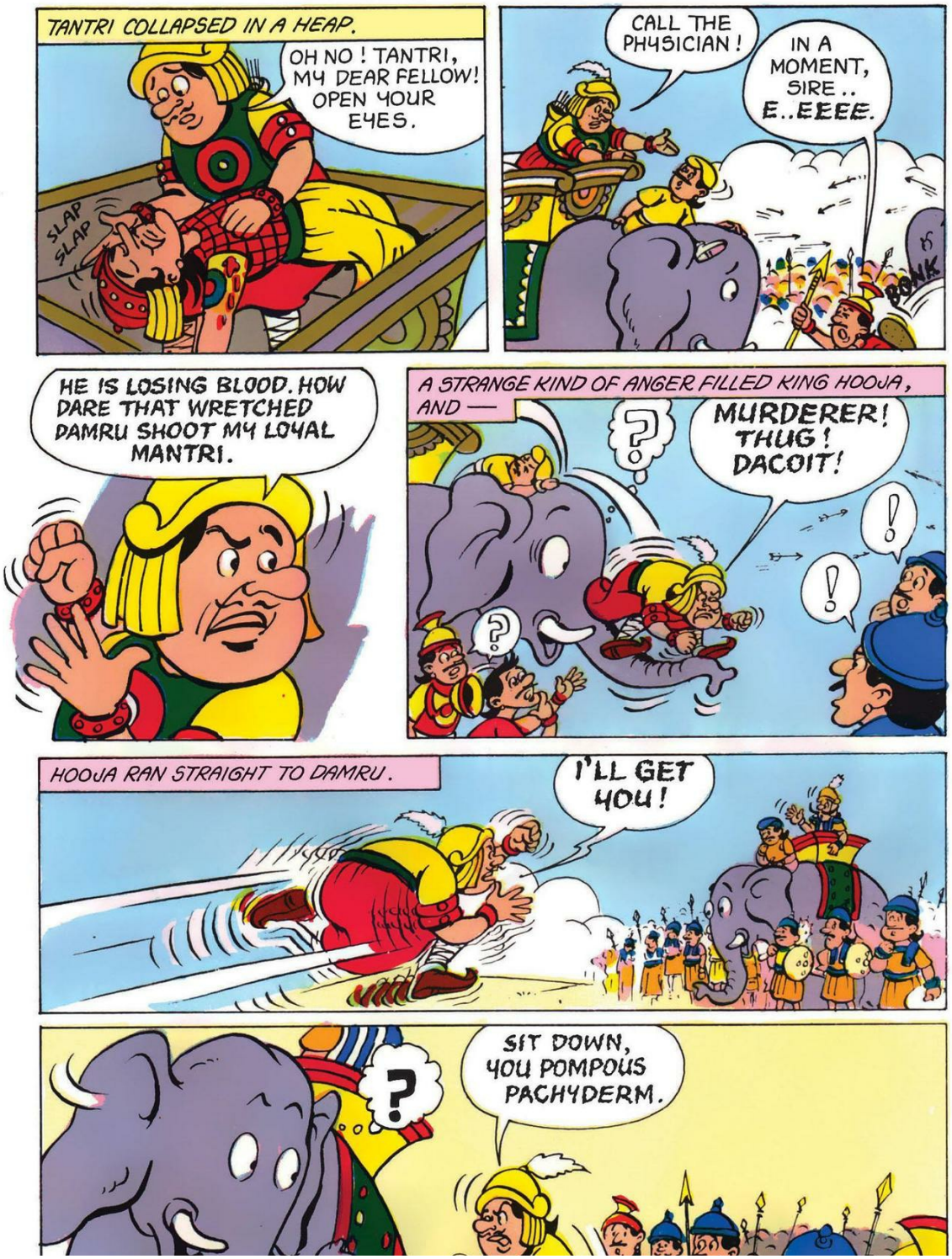

KING DAMRU ATTACKED THE NEXT MORNING.
WHY DID HE HAVE TO ATTACK SO EARLY ?
HE LIKES TO FINISH ALL HIS OUT-DOOR WORK BY LUNCH TIME.


KING HOOJA'S ARMY FOUGHT BRAVELY.
TAKE THAT, YOU BIG APE !
AAAOOOOOO
BOINK
THUNK
THUD

DAMRU SAW HOOJA ON HIS ELEPHANT AND AIMED AT HIM.
OOOOK! DAMRU IS GOING TO SHOOT ME.

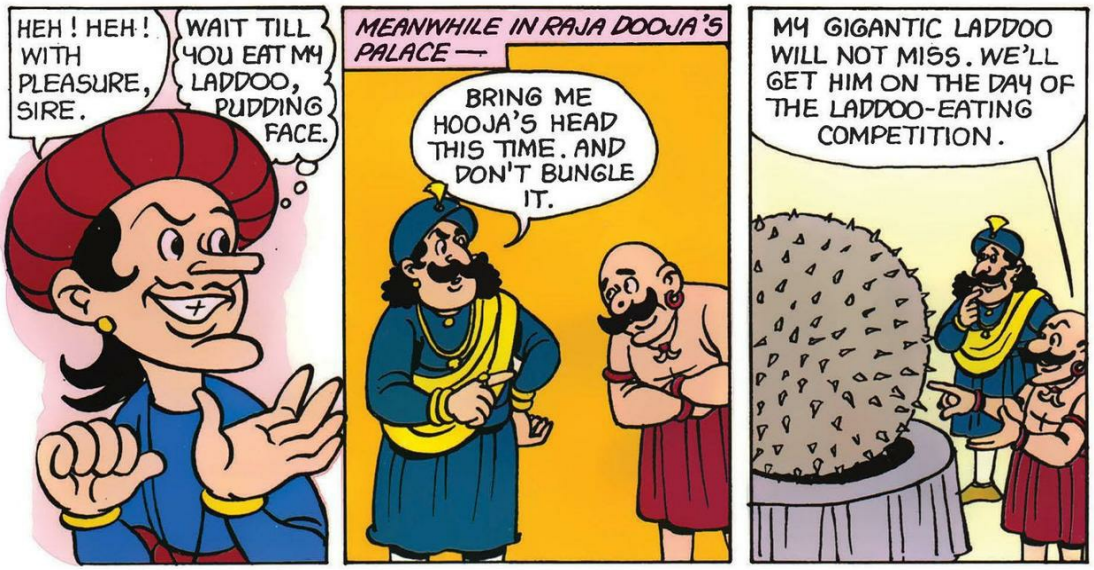
SAVE ME, DEAR TANTRI.
UH!

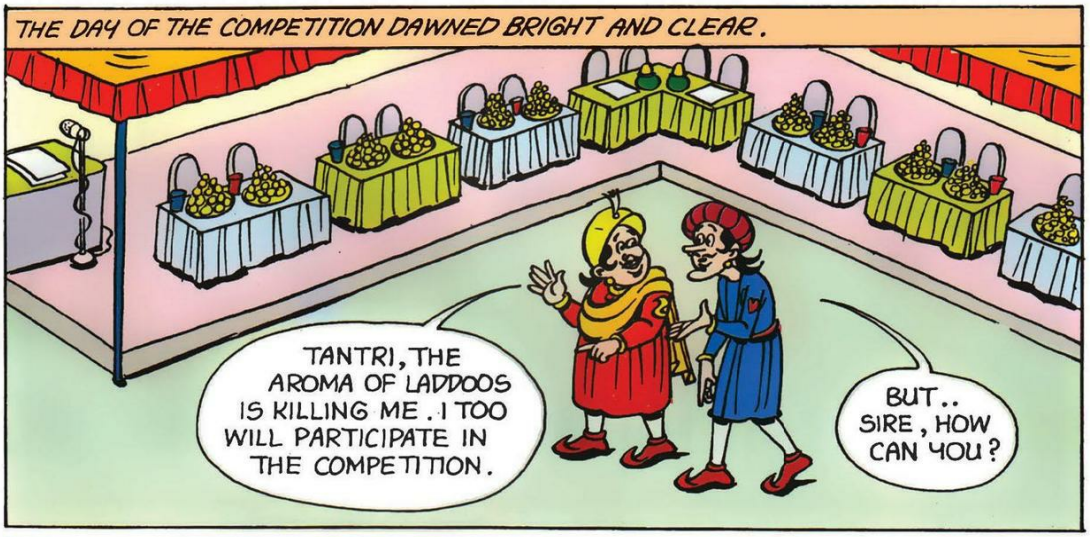

THE ARROW CAME WHIZZING AND —
HELP!
UNGH!

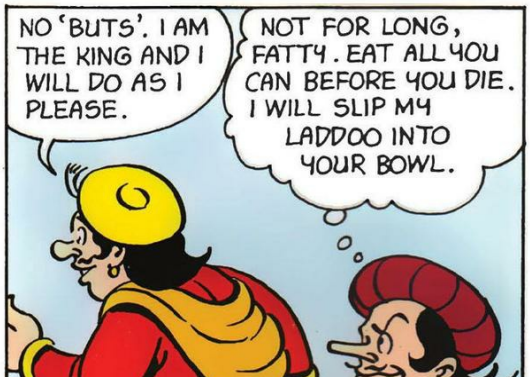

TANTRI COLLAPSED IN A HEAP.
OH NO ! TANTRI, MY DEAR FELLOW! OPEN YOUR EYES.
SLAP SLAP
CALL THE PHYSICIAN !
IN A MOMENT, SIRE .. E..EEEE.
BONK
HE IS LOSING BLOOD. HOW DARE THAT WRETCHED DAMRU SHOOT MY LOYAL MANTRI.
A STRANGE KIND OF ANGER FILLED KING HOOJA, AND —
?
MURDERER! THUG! DACOIT!
!
!
?
HOOJA RAN STRAIGHT TO DAMRU.
I'LL GET YOU!
?
SIT DOWN, YOU POMPOUS PACHYDERM.

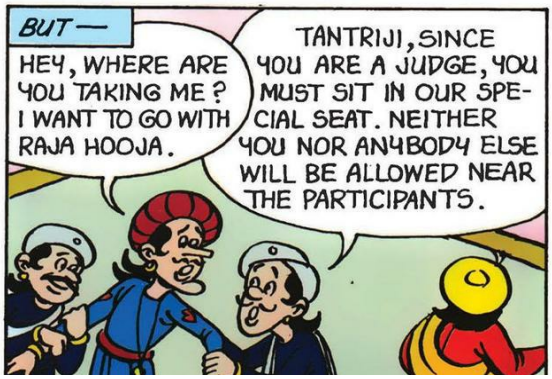
THE ELEPHANT WAS IMPRESSED AND PROMPTLY SAT DOWN.
GET UP, YOU DEVIOUS DAMRU...
THUD
...LET ME BONK YOUR DUMB FACE.
BONK BONK
KING DAMRU COLLAPSED OUT OF SHEER FRIGHT...
GOOD FIGHT.
BRAVO! BRAVO!
SOLID PUNCH!
...AND VALIANT HOOJA CARRIED HIM AWAY AS BOOTY.
NO ONE TOUCHES MY TANTRI AND GETS AWAY WITH IT.
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
MUCH MUCH LATER —
TANTRI MISLED ME. HE TOLD ME THAT HOOJA WAS A COWARD. HE WAS TRICKING ME ALL THE TIME.
IT'S A MEAN WORLD, BROTHER.
IN ANOTHER PART OF THE PALACE—
....AND THEN THE KING JUMPED OFF HIS ELEPHANT AND....
SHEESH! THAT'S THE 104TH TIME I AM HEARING THE STORY.

THE ELEPHANT WAS IMPRESSED AND PROMPTLY SAT DOWN.
GET UP, YOU DEVIOUS DAMRU...
THUD
...LET ME BONK YOUR DUMB FACE.
BONK BONK
KING DAMRU COLLAPSED OUT OF SHEER FRIGHT...
GOOD FIGHT.
BRAVO! BRAVO!
SOLID PUNCH!
...AND VALIANT HOOJA CARRIED HIM AWAY AS BOOTY.
NO ONE TOUCHES MY TANTRI AND GETS AWAY WITH IT.
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
MUCH MUCH LATER —
TANTRI MISLED ME. HE TOLD ME THAT HOOJA WAS A COWARD. HE WAS TRICKING ME ALL THE TIME.
IT'S A MEAN WORLD, BROTHER.
IN ANOTHER PART OF THE PALACE—
....AND THEN THE KING JUMPED OFF HIS ELEPHANT AND....
SHEESH! THAT'S THE 104TH TIME I AM HEARING THE STORY.


HEH! HEH! WITH PLEASURE, SIRE.
WAIT TILL YOU EAT MY LADDOO, PUDDING FACE.
MEANWHILE IN RAJA DOOJA'S PALACE —
BRING ME HOOJA'S HEAD THIS TIME. AND DON'T BUNGLE IT.
MY GIGANTIC LADDOO WILL NOT MISS. WE'LL GET HIM ON THE DAY OF THE LADDOO-EATING COMPETITION.

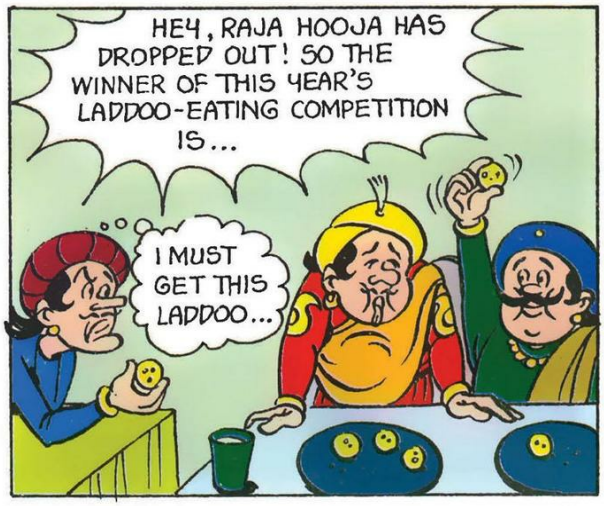

THE DAY OF THE COMPETITION DAWNED BRIGHT AND CLEAR.
TANTRI, THE AROMA OF LADDOOS IS KILLING ME. I TOO WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE COMPETITION.
BUT.. SIRE, HOW CAN YOU?


NO 'BUTS'. I AM THE KING AND I WILL DO AS I PLEASE.
NOT FOR LONG, FATTY. EAT ALL YOU CAN BEFORE YOU DIE. I WILL SLIP MY LADDOO INTO YOUR BOWL.


BUT —
HEY, WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME? I WANT TO GO WITH RAJA HOOJA.
TANTRIJI, SINCE YOU ARE A JUDGE, YOU MUST SIT IN OUR SPECIAL SEAT. NEITHER YOU NOR ANYBODY ELSE WILL BE ALLOWED NEAR THE PARTICIPANTS.

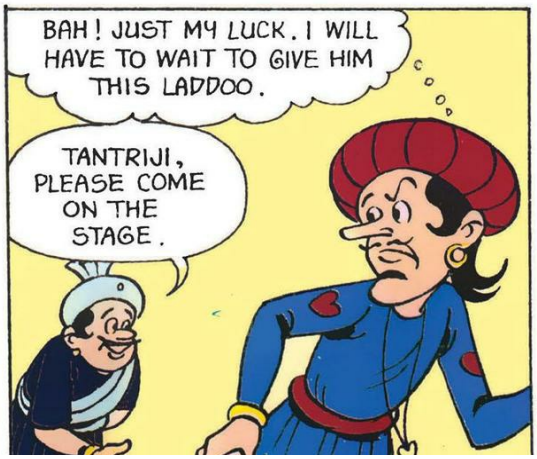
AN HOUR LATER —
I WILL HAVE TO FEED HIM THE LADDOO AFTER THE COMPETITION.
THIS IS THE MOST EXCITING LADDOO-EATING COMPETITION EVER. RAJA HOOJA AND KHATERAHO ARE THE ONLY TWO LEFT.

STILL LATER —
KHATERAHO HAS GAINED THE LEAD. RAJA HOOJA LOOKS ILL.

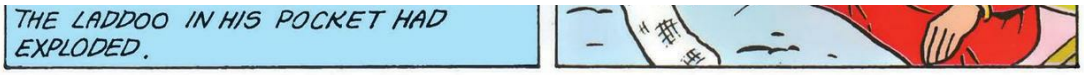

HEY, RAJA HOOJA HAS DROPPED OUT! SO THE WINNER OF THIS YEAR'S LADDOO-EATING COMPETITION IS...
I MUST GET THIS LADDOO...

...KHATERAHO!
...TO HOOJA.

SIRE, I HAVE KEPT THIS SPECIAL LADDOO FOR YOU...
BELCH! TANTRI, I AM ILL. I HAVE EATEN TOO MANY LADDOOS. YOU.. GAK.. MUST GIVE AWAY THE PRIZE. I AM GOING BACK TO REST. OOOGH!


BAH! JUST MY LUCK. I WILL HAVE TO WAIT TO GIVE HIM THIS LADDOO.
TANTRIJI, PLEASE COME ON THE STAGE.

MEANWHILE —
I MUST RELEASE THE GIGANTIC IRON LADDOO NOW. HOOJA WILL COME TO REWARD THE WINNER. AND HE'LL BE FLATTENED!
PLEASE WELCOME, THIS YEAR'S WINNER, KHATERAHO....
AND —
!
?
RRRRUMBLE
?
HELLLP
SAVED BY A STONE. IT HAS CHANGED THE DIRECTION OF THAT KILLER LADDOO.
WATCH OUT, TANTRI!
SPLASH
KABOOM
LATER —
TANTRI, YOU FOILED YET ANOTHER PLAN TO KILL ME. I HAVE BROUGHT YOU THIS BASKETFUL OF LADDOOS TO MUNCH ON.
GAH!


THE LADDOO IN HIS POCKET HAD EXPLODED.

TANTRI THE MANTRI

'THE PITFALL'

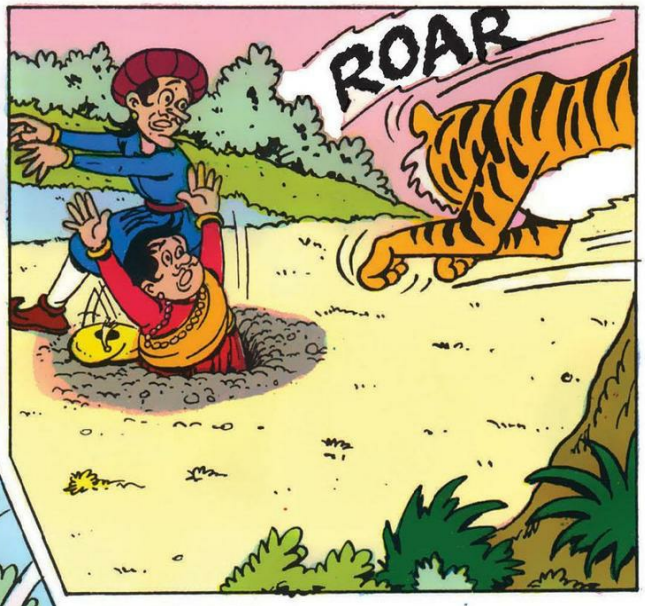
Based on a story sent by:
D. Rakesh,
Illustrations: Prachi Killekar

NOT MUCH LATER —
OOOOOH! HOW MY TUMMY HURTS.
MUST BE ALL THOSE LADDOOS YOU ATE. THERE IS NO ESCAPING IT, YOUR MAJESTY. YOU WILL HAVE TO EXERCISE DAILY.
EXCELLENT! EXERCISES MEAN INJURED ANKLES, TORN LIGAMENTS, BETTER STILL— A BROKEN BACK! HEH! HEH!
HUFF.. PUFF.. THIS IS HARD WORK!
DRAT! SO MANY DAYS HAVE PASSED AND NOT A SINGLE INJURY! ALL THOSE FATTY LAYERS DO PROTECT HIM WELL!
WAIT, SIR!
WHO.. WHAT? WHO IS IT?
IT'S ME, VETAL RAM.
AH! VETAL RAM, WHY DID YOU STOP ME?
LOOK HERE, SIR...

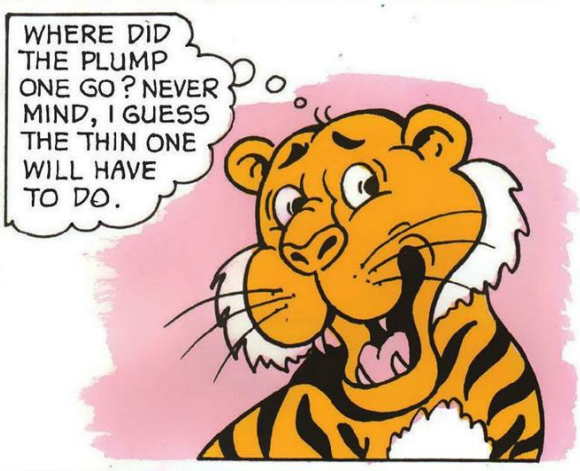
VETAL RAM WAS THE ROYAL GARDENER.

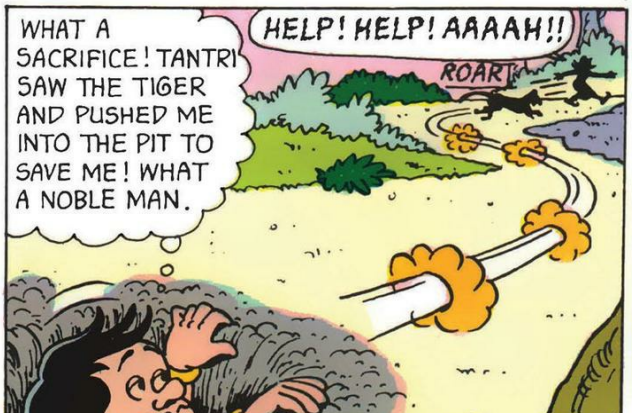
...HAD YOU FALLEN INTO THIS BIG PIT, YOU WOULD'VE SURELY BROKEN YOUR NECK.
A BIG PIT AND A BROKEN NECK EH! HEH, HEH!
?
THE NEXT DAY—
I AM SO BORED DOING THE SAME EXERCISES EVERYDAY.
WHY DON'T WE GO FOR A WALK, YOUR MAJESTY. IT WILL BE GOOD FOR YOU.
NOT TO MENTION YOUR BROKEN NECK ONCE I PUSH YOU INTO THAT PIT.
HMM.. THE FRESH AIR IS SO WONDERFUL. NO TENSION, NO PRESSURES AND NO TRAINERS!
AND NO ONE TO SEE US!!
UNKNOWN TO TANTRI, SOMEBODY WAS WATCHING.
AH! TWO HUMANS.. THE PLUMP ONE WILL LAST ME A MONTH AT LEAST! I'LL LET THE THIN ONE GO. HE LOOKS TOO NASTY TO EAT!

JUST A FEW MORE STEPS TO THE CROWN.. HERE GOES.
AAAAAAH!


ROAR

EEEEEKS!


WHERE DID THE PLUMP ONE GO? NEVER MIND, I GUESS THE THIN ONE WILL HAVE TO DO.

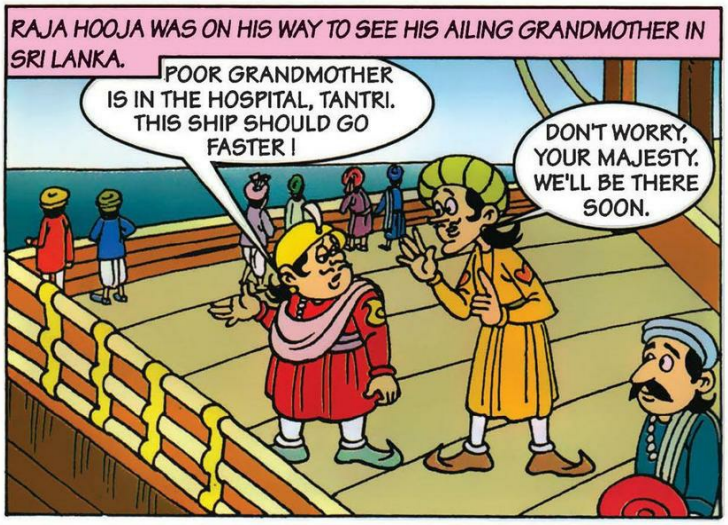

WHAT A SACRIFICE! TANTRI SAW THE TIGER AND PUSHED ME INTO THE PIT TO SAVE ME! WHAT A NOBLE MAN.
HELP! HELP! AAAAH!!
ROAR

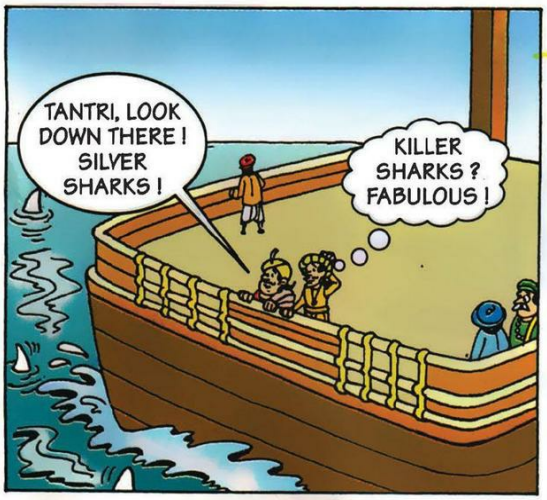
DRAT, FOILED AGAIN! WAAAA! HELP! HELP, SOMEONE!!
THE THINGS A TIGER HAS TO DO FOR A MEAL!
ROAR

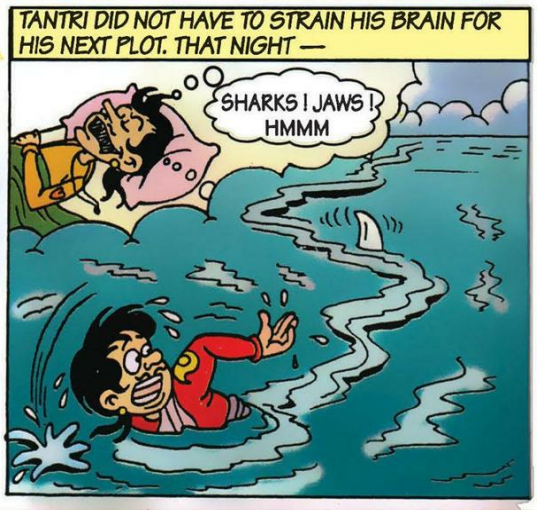
TANTRI THE MANTRI
THE PIRATE BOMBARDIER

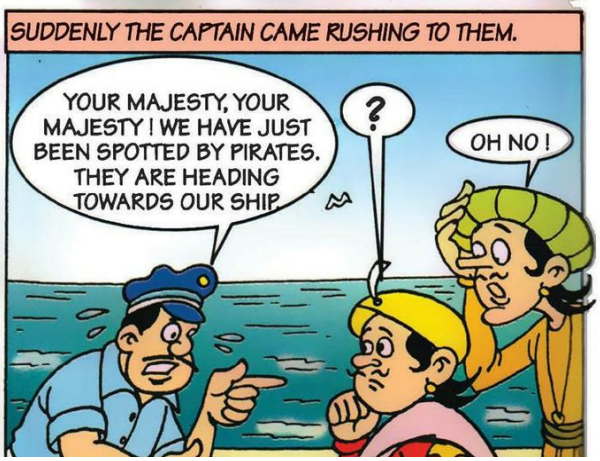
Based on story sent by:
Priyadarshini Patil

Illustrations :
Prachi Killekar

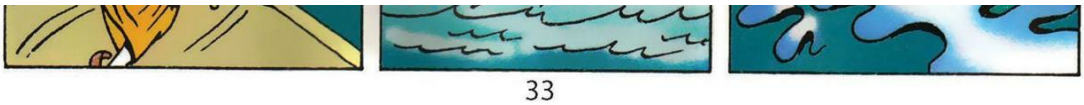




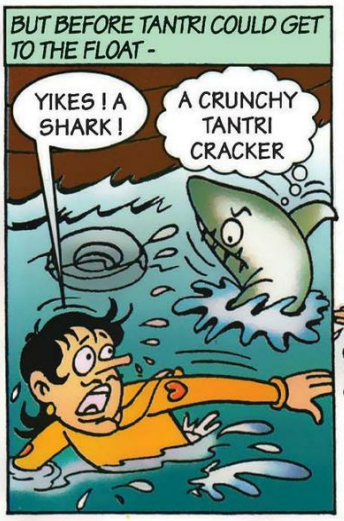




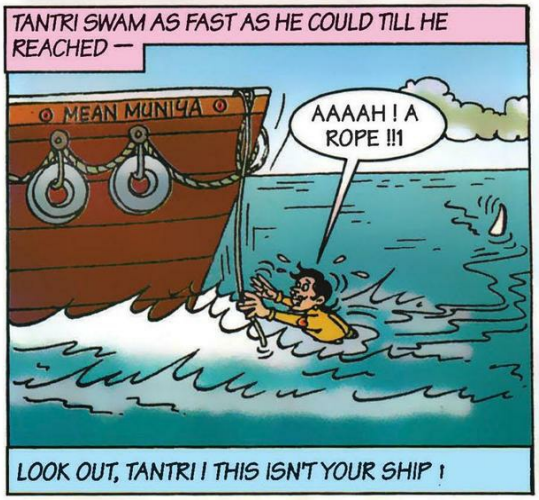
THEY WILL USE CANNONS. WE MUST MOVE FASTER TO ESCAPE THEM !
YES CAPTAIN ! THEN, I CAN MEET MY GRANDMOTHER SOON, TOO.
THE SILLY CHUMP !
THE CAPTAIN RUSHED BACK TO THE CONTROL ROOM. ON THE DECK —
PIRATES ! TANTRI'S THIS IS SO EXCITING. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE AN ADVENTURE !
IT IS EXCITING, YOUR MAJESTY !
HE IS COMPLETELY NUTS !
MEANWHILE, ON MEAN MUNIYA, THE PIRATE'S SHIP—
MEN, GET THE CANNONS READY. LET HOOJA AND TANTRI HAVE A BLAST ! HE.. HE !
MEAN MUNIYA
HOOJA'S CAPTAIN WAS ALERT.
CHIEF ENGINEER ! THEY WILL SOON FIRE. QUICK ! TURN THE SHIP THE OTHER WAY.
YES SIR !
HOOJA'S SHIP TOOK A SHARP TURN, AND —
AAAA ...HELP
AAAA ...
PLUMP HOOJA WAS CAUGHT IN THE RAILING.
... AAAH
...AAAA...
AND —
AAA
SPLASH !



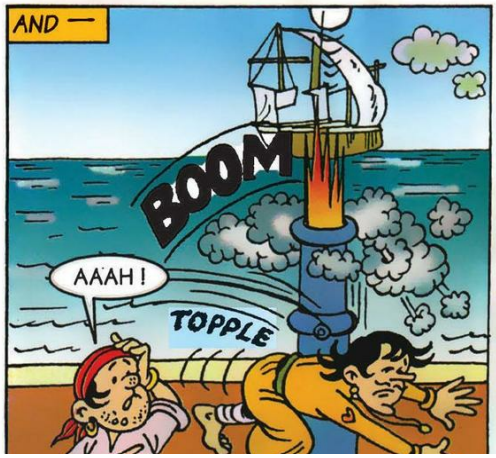
HANG ON, TANTRI ! SWIM TO THIS FLOAT !
SPLASH

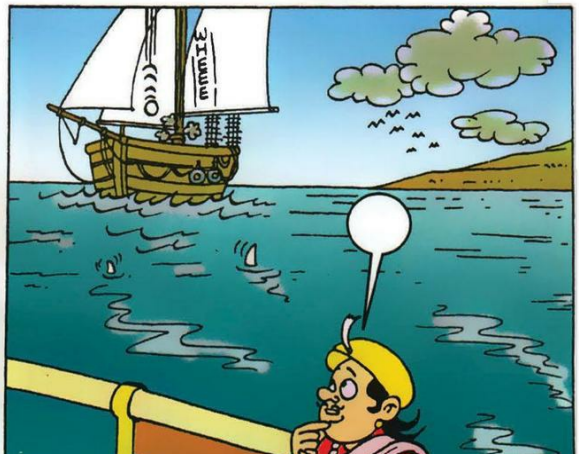

BUT BEFORE TANTRI COULD GET TO THE FLOAT -
YIKES ! A SHARK !
A CRUNCHY TANTRI CRACKER

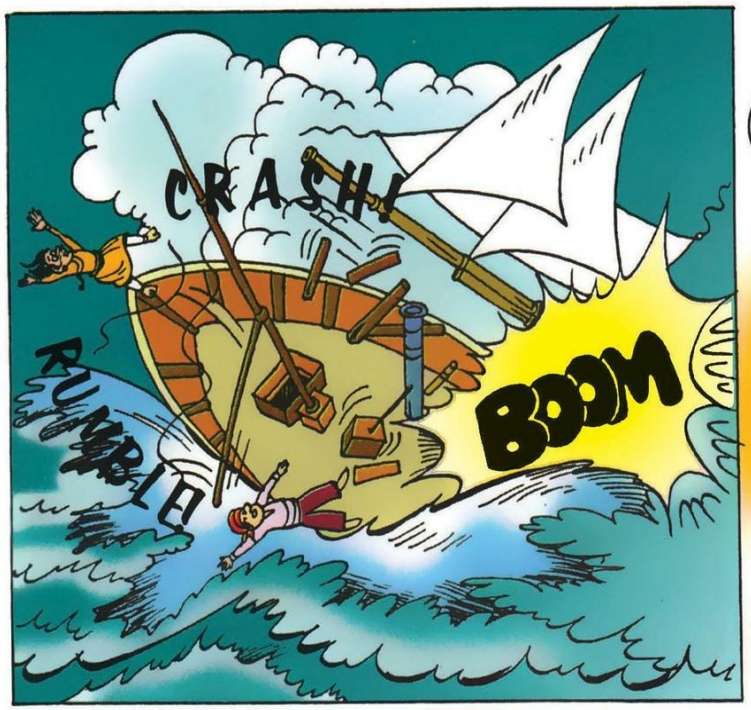
TANTRI, WHERE ARE YOU GOING ?
YAIYEE !
COME BACK, CRACKER !


TANTRI SWAM AS FAST AS HE COULD TILL HE REACHED —
MEAN MUNIYA
AAAAH ! A ROPE !!1
LOOK OUT, TANTRI ! THIS ISN'T YOUR SHIP !

TANTRI HAULED HIMSELF UP BUT COULD NOT STOP RUNNING.
HELP ! A SHARK !
WATCH OUT ! STOP !


AND —
BOOM
AAAH !
TOPPLE




CRASH!
BOOM
RUMBLE

STRANGE. THEY SHOT THEMSELVES ! WHAT BAD AIM ! BUT WHERE HAS TANTRI DISAPPEARED ?

JUST THEN-
YOUR MAJESTY, YOUR MAJESTY, I SAW IT ALL HAPPENING ! TANTRI SWAM TO THE PIRATE SHIP AND RAN RIGHT INTO THE PIRATE WHO WAS GOING TO FIRE AT US ! HE SAVED US !
WOW ! WHAT A HERO ! BUT HOW IS HE ?

YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, YOUR MAJESTY, THAT IT WAS A VERY BIG EXPLOSION !
OH NO ! MY POOR TANTRI. HE HAS GIVEN UP HIS LIFE FOR ME.

HOOJA REACHED SRI LANKA VERY DEJECTED.
AT THE HOSPITAL—
HOW ARE YOU FEELING GRANDMA ?
MUCH BETTER ! IN FACT, I'VE BEEN COUNSELLING MY FRIEND THERE.

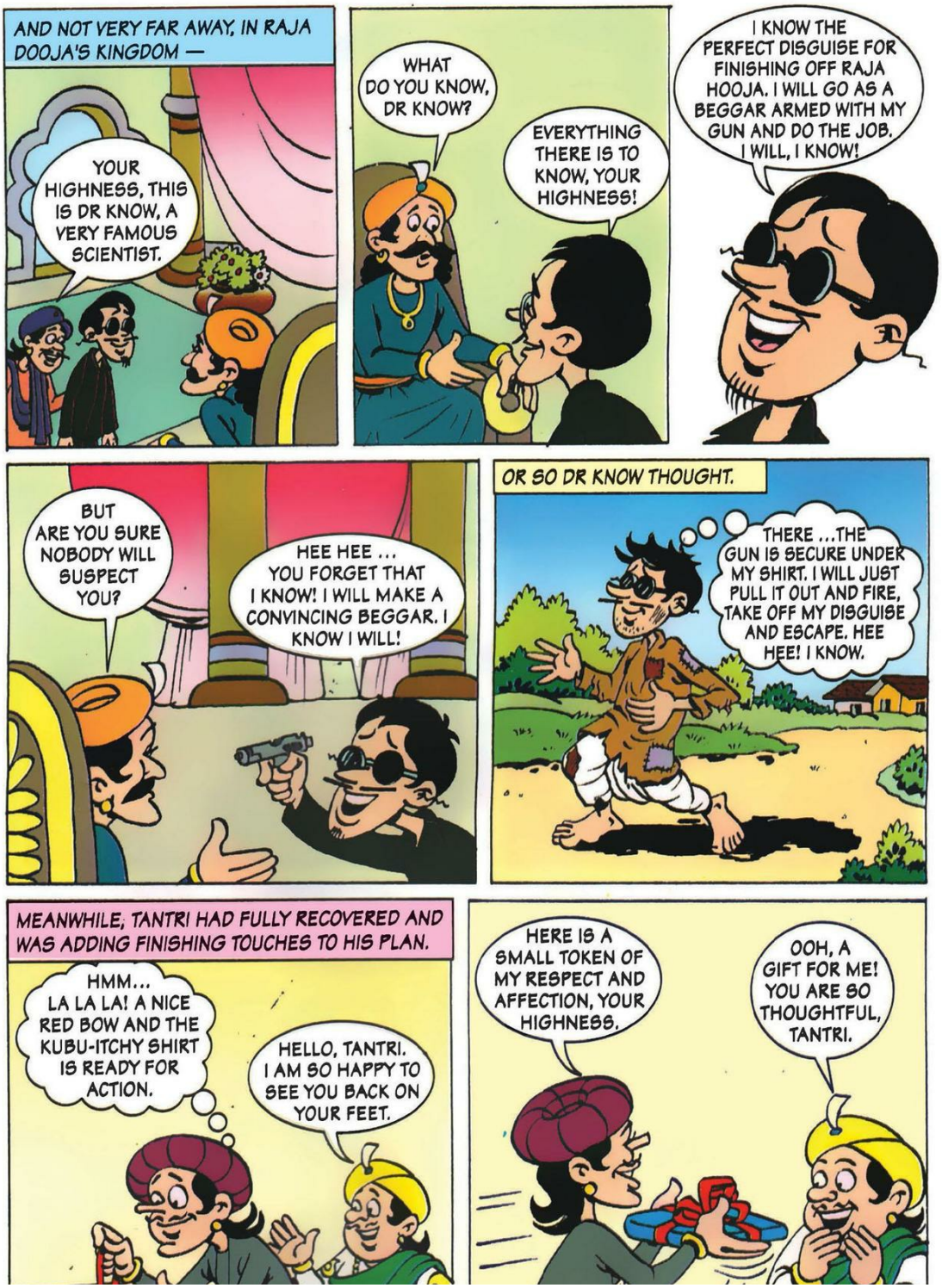
TANTRI ! WHAT A SURPRISE ! ! ALWAYS KNEW MY BRAVEST MINISTER WOULD NEVER LEAVE ME.
SOME FISHERMEN PICKED HIM UP FROM THE SEA.
AAAARGH

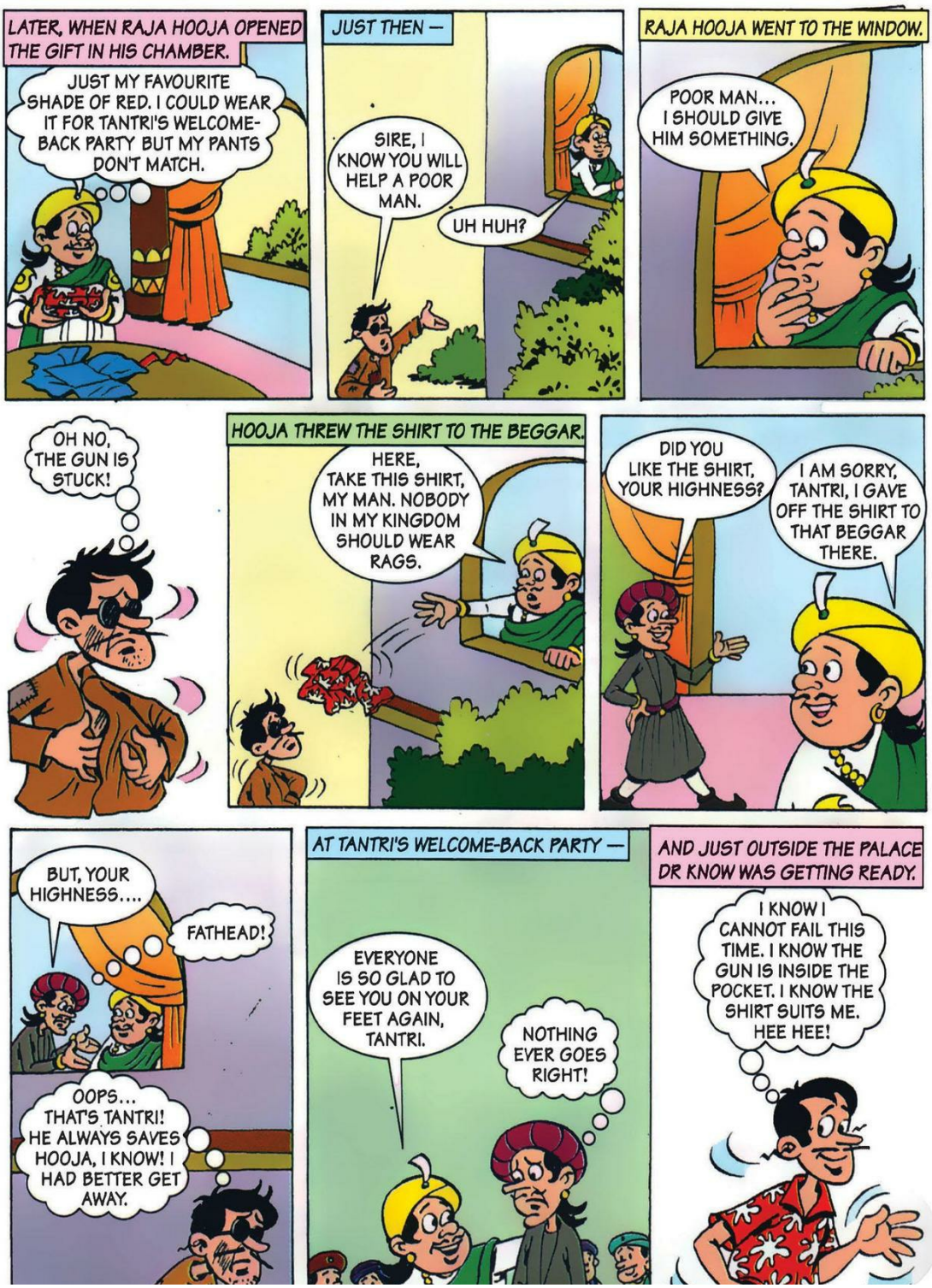
TANTRI THE MANTRI

THE RAJA'S NEW CLOTHES

Based on a story sent by:
Pranjal Pran Saikia
Illustrations:
Prachi Killekar

TANTRI PAID 600 GOLD COINS FOR A KUBU-ITCHY SHIRT.


AND NOT VERY FAR AWAY, IN RAJA DOOJA'S KINGDOM —
YOUR HIGHNESS, THIS IS DR KNOW, A VERY FAMOUS SCIENTIST.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW, DR KNOW?
EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW, YOUR HIGHNESS!
I KNOW THE PERFECT DISGUISE FOR FINISHING OFF RAJA HOOJA. I WILL GO AS A BEGGAR ARMED WITH MY GUN AND DO THE JOB. I WILL, I KNOW!
BUT ARE YOU SURE NOBODY WILL SUSPECT YOU?
HEE HEE ... YOU FORGET THAT I KNOW! I WILL MAKE A CONVINCING BEGGAR. I KNOW I WILL!
OR SO DR KNOW THOUGHT.
THERE ...THE GUN IS SECURE UNDER MY SHIRT. I WILL JUST PULL IT OUT AND FIRE, TAKE OFF MY DISGUISE AND ESCAPE. HEE HEE! I KNOW.
MEANWHILE, TANTRI HAD FULLY RECOVERED AND WAS ADDING FINISHING TOUCHES TO HIS PLAN.
HMM... LA LA LA! A NICE RED BOW AND THE KUBU-ITCHY SHIRT IS READY FOR ACTION.
HELLO, TANTRI. I AM SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU BACK ON YOUR FEET.
HERE IS A SMALL TOKEN OF MY RESPECT AND AFFECTION, YOUR HIGHNESS.
OOH, A GIFT FOR ME! YOU ARE SO THOUGHTFUL, TANTRI.


LATER, WHEN RAJA HOOJA OPENED THE GIFT IN HIS CHAMBER.
JUST MY FAVOURITE SHADE OF RED. I COULD WEAR IT FOR TANTRI'S WELCOME-BACK PARTY BUT MY PANTS DON'T MATCH.
JUST THEN —
SIRE, I KNOW YOU WILL HELP A POOR MAN.
UH HUH?
RAJA HOOJA WENT TO THE WINDOW.
POOR MAN... I SHOULD GIVE HIM SOMETHING.
OH NO, THE GUN IS STUCK!
HOOJA THREW THE SHIRT TO THE BEGGAR.
HERE, TAKE THIS SHIRT, MY MAN. NOBODY IN MY KINGDOM SHOULD WEAR RAGS.
DID YOU LIKE THE SHIRT, YOUR HIGHNESS?
I AM SORRY, TANTRI, I GAVE OFF THE SHIRT TO THAT BEGGAR THERE.
BUT, YOUR HIGHNESS....
FATHEAD!
OOPS... THAT'S TANTRI! HE ALWAYS SAVES HOOJA, I KNOW! I HAD BETTER GET AWAY.
AT TANTRI'S WELCOME-BACK PARTY —
EVERYONE IS SO GLAD TO SEE YOU ON YOUR FEET AGAIN, TANTRI.
NOTHING EVER GOES RIGHT!
AND JUST OUTSIDE THE PALACE DR KNOW WAS GETTING READY.
I KNOW I CANNOT FAIL THIS TIME. I KNOW THE GUN IS INSIDE THE POCKET. I KNOW THE SHIRT SUITS ME. HEE HEE!

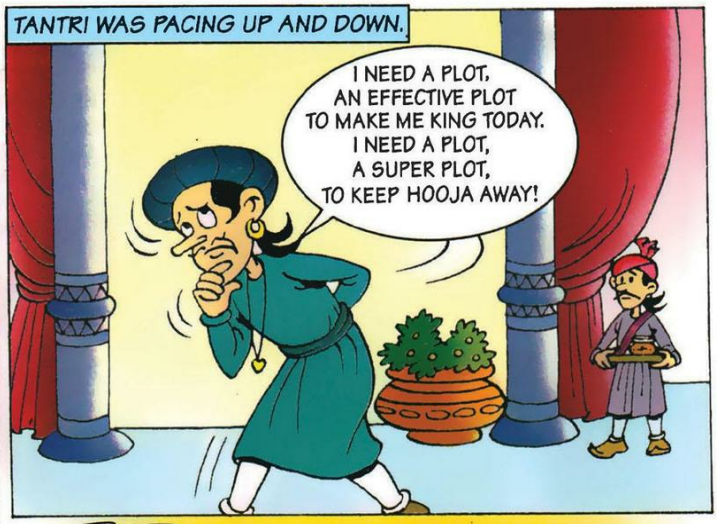
DR KNOW WALKED INTO THE HALL WHERE THE PARTY WAS GOING ON.
I MUST STAND NEAR THIS WINDOW, FIRE AT HOOJA AND ESCAPE. I KNOW I WILL SUCCEED THIS TIME.
SUDDENLY —
HEY, THAT'S THE BEGGAR I GAVE MY SHIRT TO. IT RATHER SUITS HIM, DON'T YOU THINK, TANTRI?
WHY AM I ITCHING ALL OVER? I DON'T KNOW!
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
I WONDER WHY HE LOOKS SO TROUBLED?! LET'S GO ASK HIM, TANTRI.
THAT COULD HAVE BEEN YOU. SIGH!
HELLO THERE ... ER... WHAT'S WRONG? DON'T YOU LIKE THE SHIRT? ARE YOU NOT WELL?
I DON'T KNOW! I DON'T KNOW!
SCRATCH
THE KUBU-ITCHY SHIRT TRULY LIVED UP TO ITS NAME!
I DON'T ...!
HE HAS FAINTED! QUICK, LET HIM HAVE SOME AIR.
SOON, THE GUN WAS DISCOVERED.
HE MUST HAVE BEEN SENT BY RAJA DOOJA TO KILL ME.
DID HE SEND YOU?
I DON'T
WHEN DR KNOW WAS PACKED OFF TO PRISON —
LET US CELEBRATE TANTRI'S RECOVERY AND MY NARROW ESCAPE.
ALL'S BAD THAT ENDS SAD!

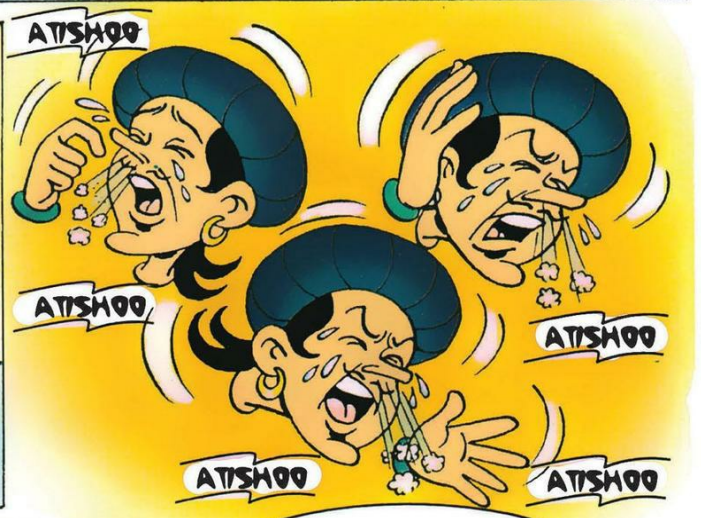
KNOW!

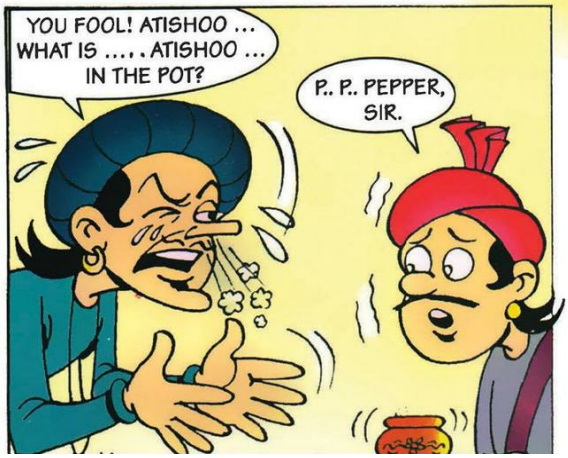
TANTRI THE MANTRI
The Pepper Plot

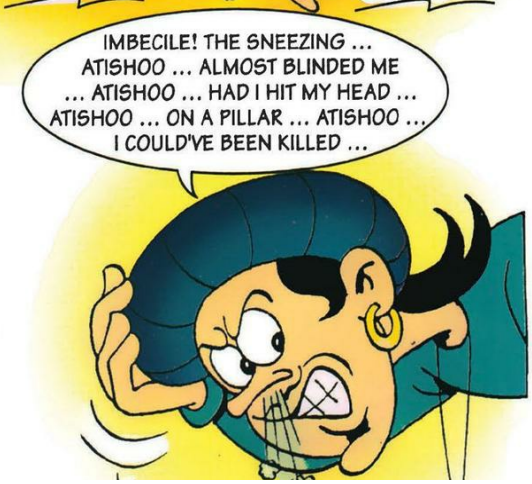
Based on a story sent by:
Abir Dasgupta,

Illustrations :
Prachi Killekar

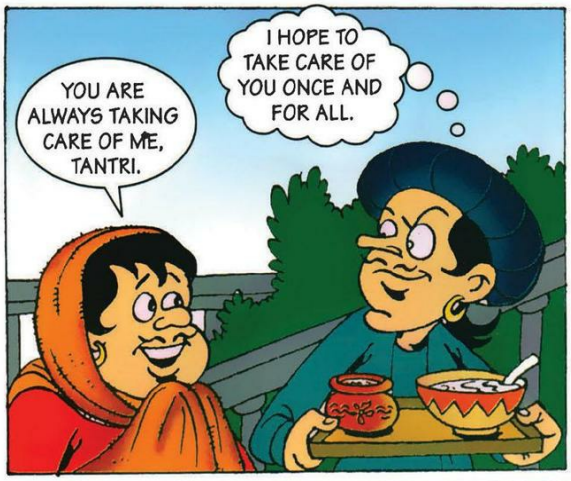


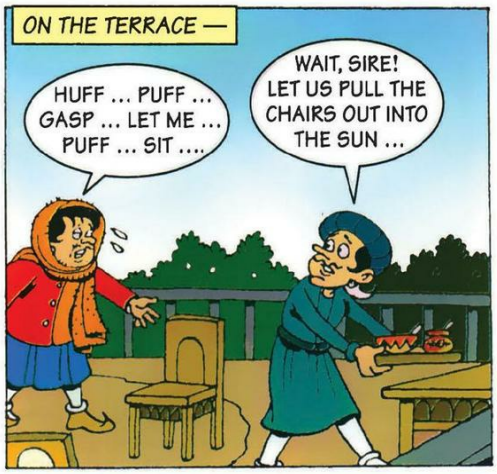




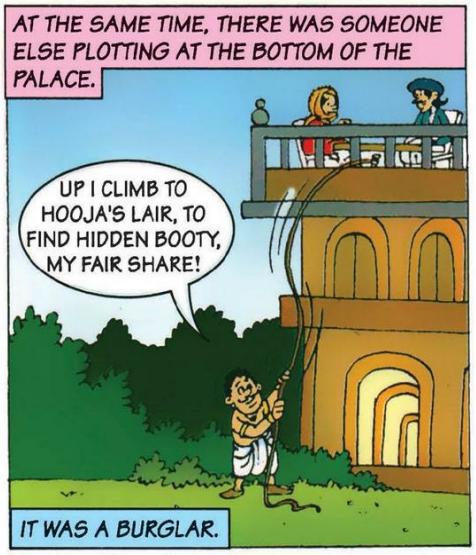


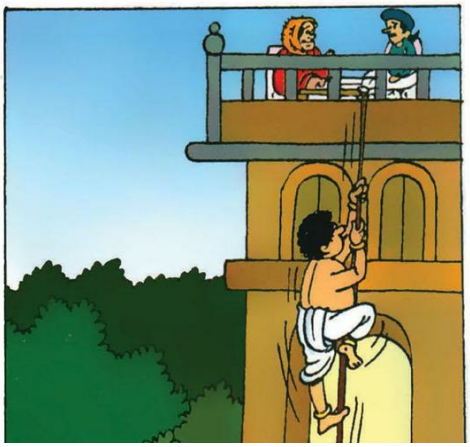
... KILLED?!
NOW THAT'S A THOUGHT ... ATISHOO!
ER ... WHERE ARE YOU TAKING THE PEPPER?
TO ... TO ... THE ROYAL DINING ROOM, SIR. RAJA HOOJA HAS A COLD AND HE'S HAVING SOUP.
AH! LET ME TAKE IT TO HIM, THEN.
?
I HEAR YOU HAVE A COLD, SIRE. HOW ARE YOU FEELING NOW?
MISERABLE, TANTRI, MISERABLE .. SOB ...
... EVEN THIS SPICY SOUP TASTES LIKE DISH WATER ... SOB ... AND GULAB JAMUNS ARE BLAND AS COTTON!
WHY AM I SO GLAD TO HEAR THAT?
WHAT YOU NEED IS SOME SUN, SIRE! YOU WILL FEEL MUCH BETTER IF YOU HAVE YOUR SOUP ON THE TERRACE.
THAT'S A BRILLIANT IDEA.


YOU ARE ALWAYS TAKING CARE OF ME, TANTRI.
I HOPE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL.


ON THE TERRACE —
HUFF ... PUFF ... GASP ... LET ME ... PUFF ... SIT ....
WAIT, SIRE! LET US PULL THE CHAIRS OUT INTO THE SUN ...

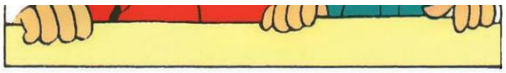
... AND CLOSER TO THE RAILING SO I CAN PUSH YOU OFF EASILY WHEN YOU SNEEZE, FATSO!


AT THE SAME TIME, THERE WAS SOMEONE ELSE PLOTTING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PALACE.
UP I CLIMB TO HOOJA'S LAIR, TO FIND HIDDEN BOOTY, MY FAIR SHARE!
IT WAS A BURGLAR.



MEANWHILE —
SLURP! TANTRI, THIS IS WONDERFUL.
IT WILL BE BETTER WHEN I DROP A BIG PINCH OF PEPPER RIGHT INTO YOUR EYES AND NOSE!

BUT THEN—
OOPS! DROPPED MY SPOON.
HERE GOES!
AAAAARGH!
ATISHOO!
ATISHOO!
ATISHOO!
ATISHOO!
YOUR HIGHNESS! WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT A DANGEROUS BURGLAR WILL TRY AND ENTER THE PALACE FROM THIS SIDE OF THE TERRACE.
AHA! THAT'S WHO HE WAS! YOU'LL FIND HIM DOWNSTAIRS.
TANTRI'S SWIFT ACTION SAVED THE DAY. YOU ARE A GENIUS, TANTRI!
A FAILED GENIUS. SOB!

FRAUD!


TANTRI THE MANTRI in TANTRI THE KING?

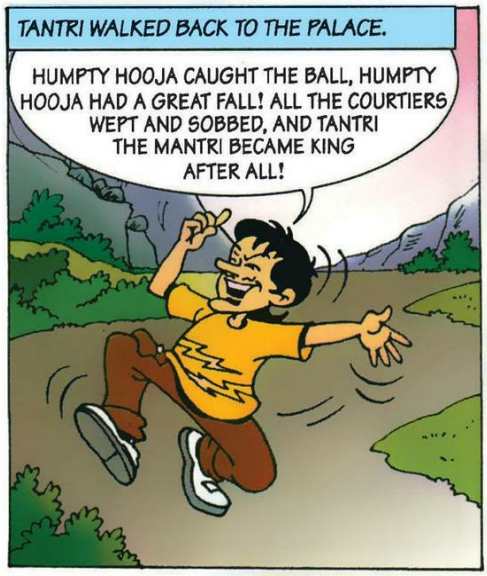
Story: Reena I. Puri
Script: Janaki Viswanathan
Illustrations : Prachi Killekar

SO THE VERY NEXT DAY —
TANTRI, TODAY WE WILL GO ON A PICNIC TO TIGI HILLS.
YES, SIRE.
WHEN THEY REACHED THE TOP OF TIGI HILLS —
AH, THIS PLACE IS STILL SO BEAUTIFUL! REMEMBER WE HAD COME HERE LONG BACK WHILE AT GURUKUL?
YES, SIRE.
HOW CAN I EVER FORGET?
COME, LET'S PLAY CATCHING THE BALL.
YES, SIRE.
CONCENTRATE, TANTRI...YOU HAVEN'T CAUGHT THE BALL EVEN ONCE.
YES, SIRE.
UH..OH!
WHOA!
CRAS

H

IT CAN'T BE...I AM DREAMING.

HOOJA FELL?
HOOJA FELL!

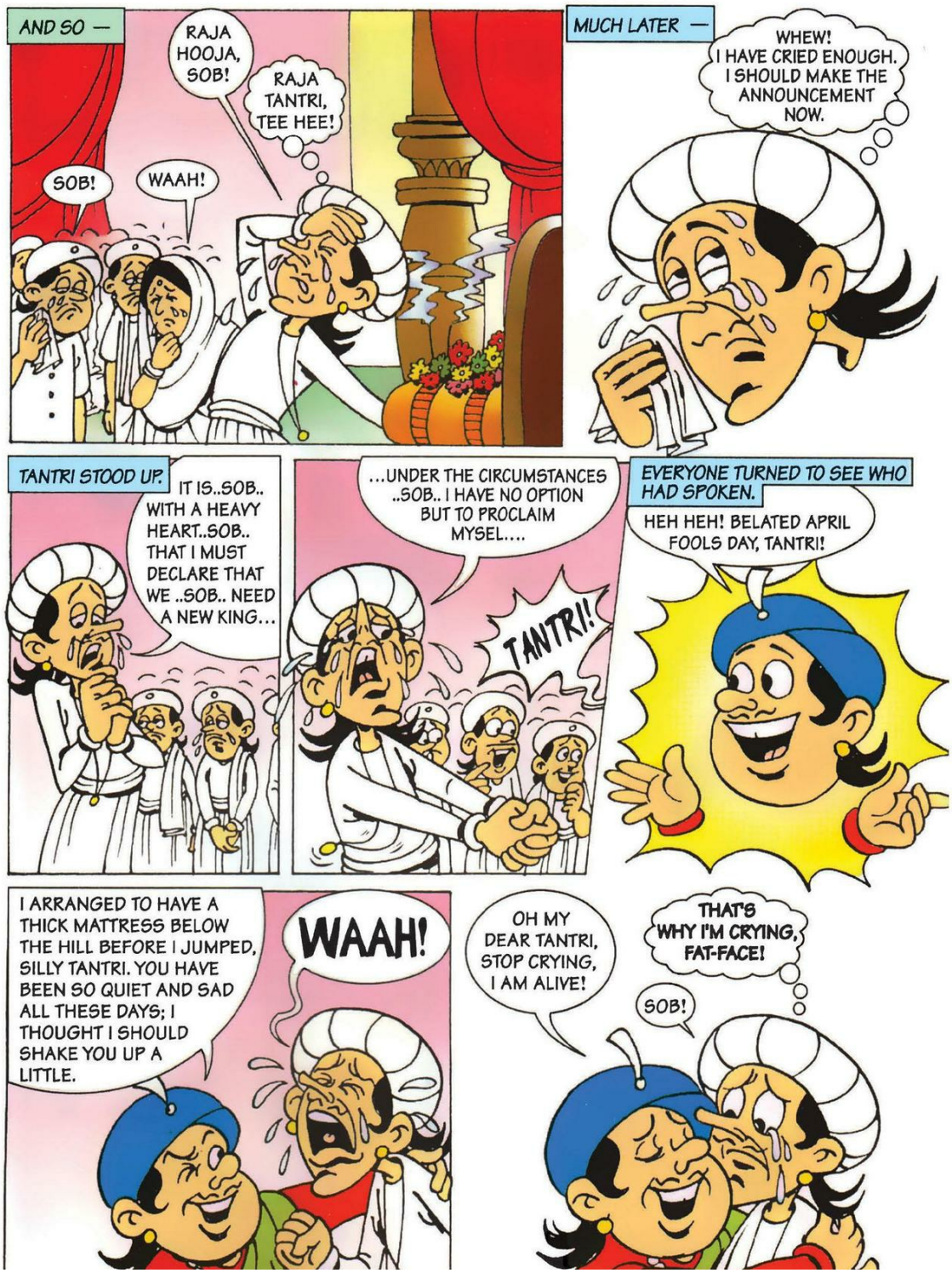

TANTRI WALKED BACK TO THE PALACE.
HUMPTY HOOJA CAUGHT THE BALL, HUMPTY HOOJA HAD A GREAT FALL! ALL THE COURTIERS WEPT AND SOBBED, AND TANTRI THE MANTRI BECAME KING AFTER ALL!

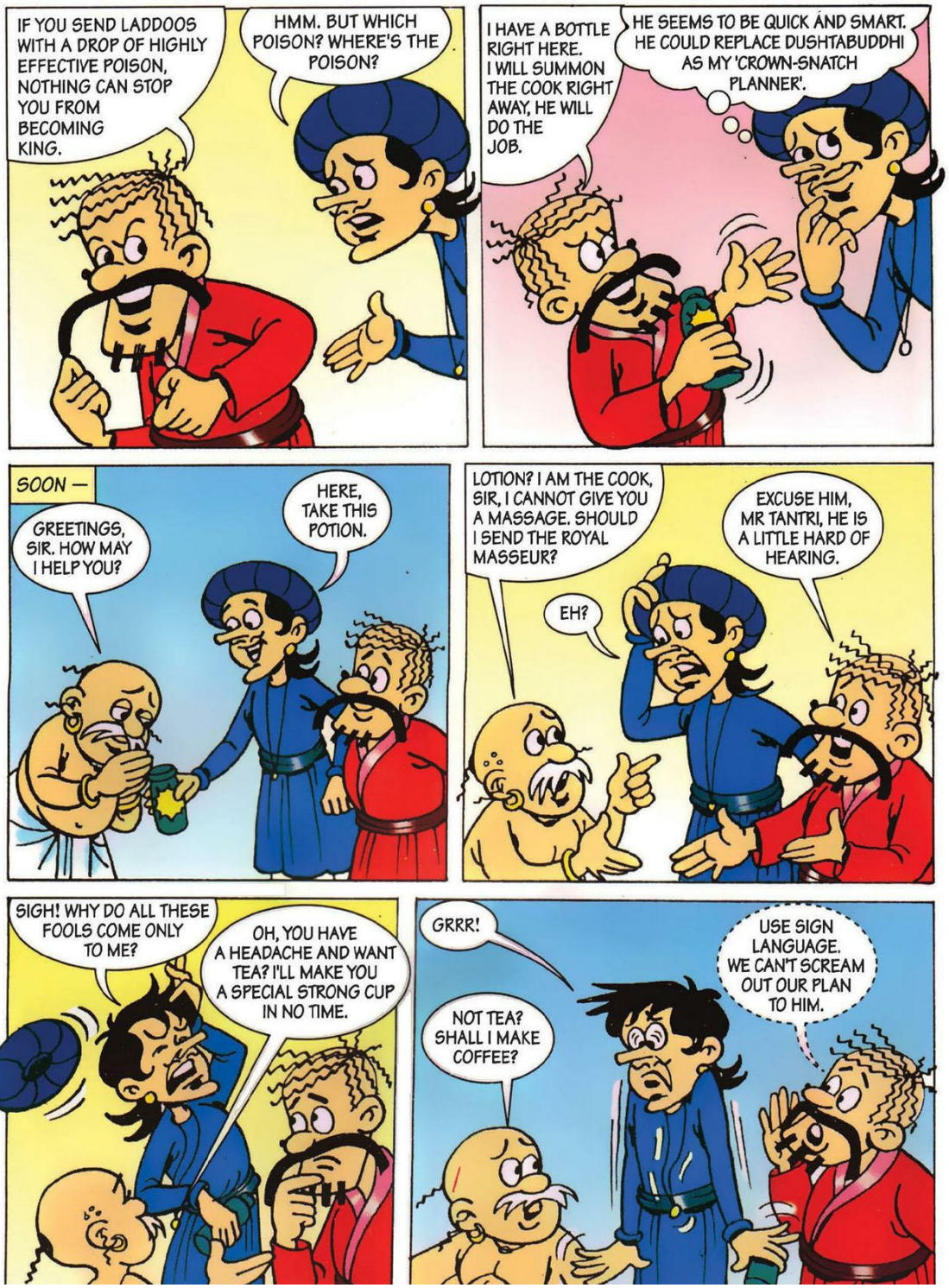
WHEN HE REACHED THE PALACE GATES —
A GREAT TRAGEDY HAS OCCURRED (SOB!) RAJA HOOJA... RAJA HOOJA (SOB!) FELL FROM TIGI HILLS!
W... WHAT?
NO!

THE WHOLE KINGDOM WAS IN SHOCK. AS FOR TANTRI —
HMM...I MUST MOURN THE WHOLE DAY TODAY. THEN IN THE EVENING I CAN PROCLAIM MYSELF AS THE NEW KING.

HE SUMMONED HIS ASSISTANT.
EVERYBODY MUST WEAR WHITE. SUMMON ALL THE COURTIERS TO THE ROYAL COURT. OUR DEAREST RAJA DESERVES A ROYAL MOURNING.
YES, SIRE.

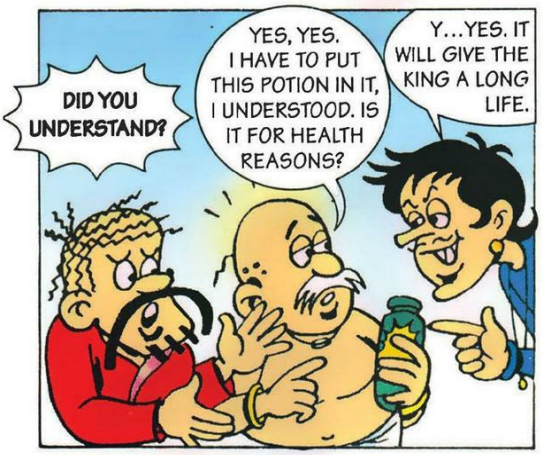
IT CAN'T BE...I AM DREAMING.
HOOJA FELL?
HOOJA FELL!
TANTRI WALKED BACK TO THE PALACE.
HUMPTY HOOJA CAUGHT THE BALL, HUMPTY HOOJA HAD A GREAT FALL! ALL THE COURTIERS WEPT AND SOBBED, AND TANTRI THE MANTRI BECAME KING AFTER ALL!
WHEN HE REACHED THE PALACE GATES —
A GREAT TRAGEDY HAS OCCURRED (SOB!) RAJA HOOJA... RAJA HOOJA (SOB!) FELL FROM TIGI HILLS!
W... WHAT?
NO!
THE WHOLE KINGDOM WAS IN SHOCK. AS FOR TANTRI —
HMM...I MUST MOURN THE WHOLE DAY TODAY. THEN IN THE EVENING I CAN PROCLAIM MYSELF AS THE NEW KING.
HE SUMMONED HIS ASSISTANT.
EVERYBODY MUST WEAR WHITE. SUMMON ALL THE COURTIERS TO THE ROYAL COURT. OUR DEAREST RAJA DESERVES A ROYAL MOURNING.
YES, SIRE.


AND SO —
RAJA HOOJA, SOB!
RAJA TANTRI, TEE HEE!
SOB!
WAAH!
MUCH LATER —
WHEW! I HAVE CRIED ENOUGH. I SHOULD MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT NOW.
TANTRI STOOD UP.
IT IS..SOB.. WITH A HEAVY HEART..SOB.. THAT I MUST DECLARE THAT WE ..SOB.. NEED A NEW KING...
...UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES ..SOB.. I HAVE NO OPTION BUT TO PROCLAIM MYSEL....
TANTRI!!
EVERYONE TURNED TO SEE WHO HAD SPOKEN.
HEH HEH! BELATED APRIL FOOLS DAY, TANTRI!
I ARRANGED TO HAVE A THICK MATTRESS BELOW THE HILL BEFORE I JUMPED, SILLY TANTRI. YOU HAVE BEEN SO QUIET AND SAD ALL THESE DAYS; I THOUGHT I SHOULD SHAKE YOU UP A LITTLE.
WAAH!
OH MY DEAR TANTRI, STOP CRYING, I AM ALIVE!
THAT'S WHY I'M CRYING, FAT-FACE!
SOB!

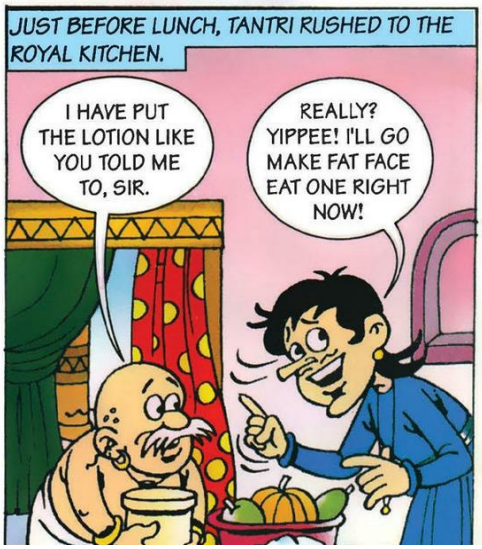

IF YOU SEND LADDOOS WITH A DROP OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE POISON, NOTHING CAN STOP YOU FROM BECOMING KING.
HMM. BUT WHICH POISON? WHERE'S THE POISON?
I HAVE A BOTTLE RIGHT HERE. I WILL SUMMON THE COOK RIGHT AWAY, HE WILL DO THE JOB.
HE SEEMS TO BE QUICK AND SMART. HE COULD REPLACE DUSHTABUDDHI AS MY 'CROWN-SNATCH PLANNER'.
SOON —
GREETINGS, SIR. HOW MAY I HELP YOU?
HERE, TAKE THIS POTION.
LOTION? I AM THE COOK, SIR, I CANNOT GIVE YOU A MASSAGE. SHOULD I SEND THE ROYAL MASSEUR?
EH?
EXCUSE HIM, MR TANTRI, HE IS A LITTLE HARD OF HEARING.
SIGH! WHY DO ALL THESE FOOLS COME ONLY TO ME?
OH, YOU HAVE A HEADACHE AND WANT TEA? I'LL MAKE YOU A SPECIAL STRONG CUP IN NO TIME.
GRRR!
NOT TEA? SHALL I MAKE COFFEE?
USE SIGN LANGUAGE. WE CAN'T SCREAM OUT OUR PLAN TO HIM.

TANTRI RESORTED TO SIGN LANGUAGE.
YOU SEE THIS BOTTLE?
HMMM.
???

MAKE SOME LADDOOS... PUT THIS IN THEM.
HMM.


DID YOU UNDERSTAND?
YES, YES. I HAVE TO PUT THIS POTION IN IT, I UNDERSTOOD. IS IT FOR HEALTH REASONS?
Y...YES. IT WILL GIVE THE KING A LONG LIFE.

YOUR WIFE? SHE IS IN THE PALACE GARDENS, SIR.
GRRR! GET THIS MAN OUT OF MY SIGHT.
YOU MAY GO.


JUST BEFORE LUNCH, TANTRI RUSHED TO THE ROYAL KITCHEN.
I HAVE PUT THE LOTION LIKE YOU TOLD ME TO, SIR.
REALLY? YIPPEE! I'LL GO MAKE FAT FACE EAT ONE RIGHT NOW!

YOUR HIGHNESS, PLEASE BEGIN THE MEAL ON A SWEET NOTE. HAVE A LADDOO.
THANK YOU, MY DEAR TANTRI. HERE, HAVE THE POTATO SALAD. YOU LIKE IT VERY MUCH, DON'T YOU?

JUST THEN —
HMM... DELICIOUS!
MR TANTRI, I NEED TO SPEAK WITH YOU URGENTLY.
NO, NOT NOW, LATER. I AM BUSY.
IT IS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH. PLEASE, SIR!
FOOL! I DIDN'T WANT TO MISS SEEING FAT FACE WHEN THE POISON TOOK EFFECT.
TANTRI FOLLOWED VICHITRABUDDHI OUTSIDE THE DINING HALL.
SIGH...TO LEAVE THE WORLD AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE FEELING SORRY FOR HOOJA?!
OWW! MY STOMACH IS HURTING! IT MUST BE INDIGESTION. HURRY UP AND TELL ME WHAT IT IS.
IF ONLY IT WERE THAT SIMPLE... SIGH! WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED WAS...
...THE COOK PUT IN THE POISON AS YOU ASKED HIM TO. ONLY, HE HEARD '*ALOO' INSTEAD OF LADDOO. AND YOU HAVE JUST EATEN THE POTATO SALAD ...SOB!
GROAN!
AND LIKE ALWAYS —
CHEER UP, TANTRI. HERE, HAVE A LADDOO. THE COOK MADE THEM ESPECIALLY FOR YOU.
LADDOO?! EEEYAAA!

* POTATO

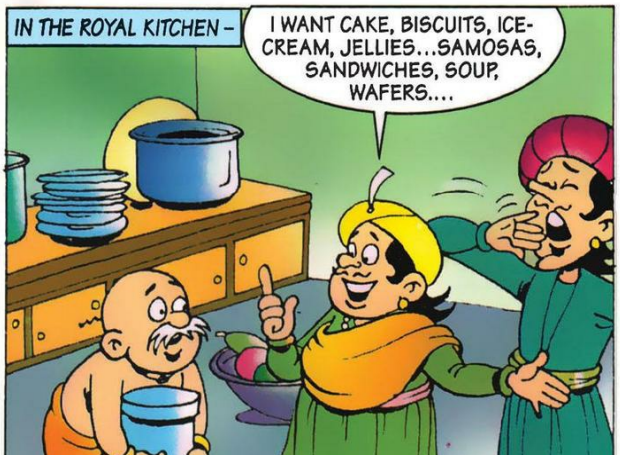
TANTRI THE MANTRI

Tantri and the Bees

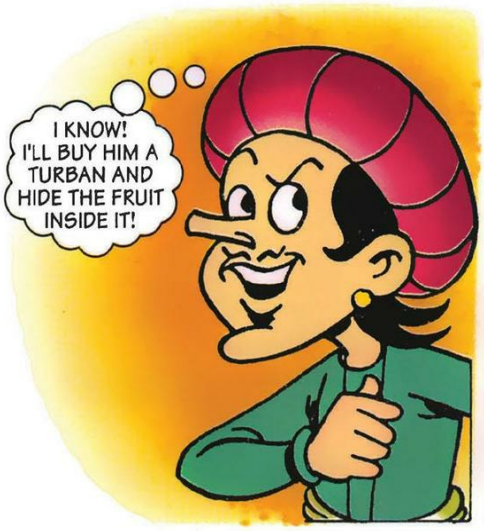
Based on a story sent by:

Aravind Bhangale,

Illustrations: Prachi Killekar

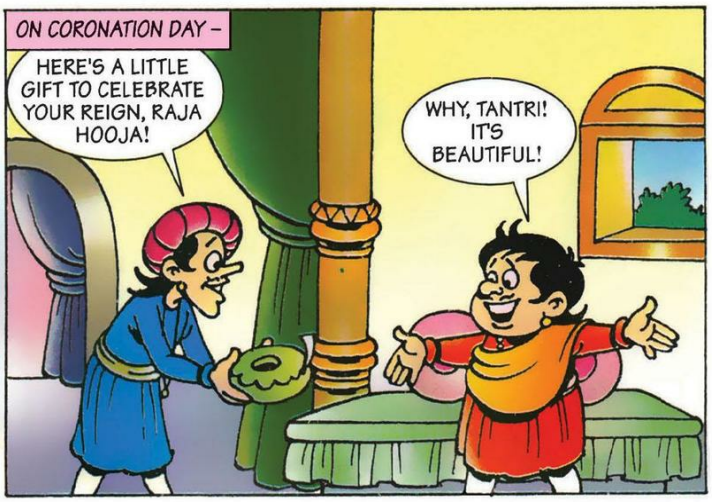


IF HE EATS ALL THAT, I WON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING. HE'LL EXPLODE BY HIMSELF! ANYWAY, NOW'S MY CHANCE TO SLIP AWAY!
WAITING FOR HIM OUTSIDE IS –
VICHITRABUDDHI!
AT YOUR SERVICE!
TANTRI, I HAVE A FOOLPROOF PLAN TO GET RID OF HOOJA!
A FOOLPROOF PLAN? ALL YOUR PLANS HAVE FAILED SO FAR!
THIS FRUIT WILL DO THE TRICK! IT ATTRACTS BEES IN THEIR HUNDREDS!
GIVE IT TO HOOJA AND TAKE HIM TO THE GARDEN...
...HE'LL BE STUNG TO DEATH! BRILLIANT!
TANTRI THOUGHT HARD.
I CAN'T GIVE HOOJA THE FRUIT. HE'LL EAT IT BEFORE A SINGLE BEE CAN GET A SNIFF AT IT!


I KNOW! I'LL BUY HIM A TURBAN AND HIDE THE FRUIT INSIDE IT!

TANTRI BOUGHT AN ELABORATE TURBAN.
DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE BOUGHT ANOTHER TURBAN! YOU'VE GOT A BEE IN YOUR BONNET ABOUT TURBANS!

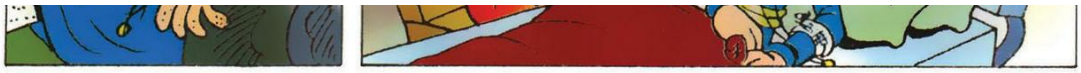
THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE MANY BEES IN THIS BONNET...ER... TURBAN!


ON CORONATION DAY –
HERE'S A LITTLE GIFT TO CELEBRATE YOUR REIGN, RAJA HOOJA!
WHY, TANTRI! IT'S BEAUTIFUL!

HOW DO I LOOK IN IT?
MAGNIFICENT, YOUR MAJESTY!
I'M SURE THE BEES WILL THINK SO TOO!

ER...I'VE ARRANGED A SURPRISE FOR YOU IN THE GARDEN BEFORE YOUR PARTY.
YOU'VE BEEN AS BUSY AS A BEE, HAVEN'T YOU, TANTRI?

IN THE ROYAL GARDENS --
IT'S REALLY WARM TODAY. I'LL TAKE OFF MY TURBAN.
Bzz
DO YOU MIND HOLDING IT, TANTRI?
BUT...BUT!
BZZZ
BZZZZZ
BZZZ
BZZZ
BZZZ
Bzzz
I'M DONE FOR!
Bzzzz
MUST GET RID OF THIS TURBAN!
SPLASH
NO ONE KNOWS WHERE THOSE BEES CAME FROM...BUT I'M SO GLAD YOU SURVIVED THE ATTACK!
OH, BUZZ OFF!



TANTRI THE MANTRI

Third Time Unlucky

Story: Jubel D'Cruz
Script: Janaki Viswanathan
Illustrations: Prachi Killekar

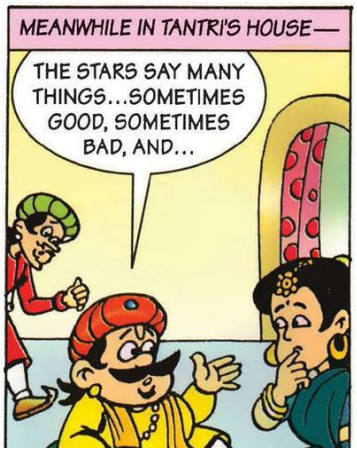
THIS IS A LITTLE GIFT FOR YOU.
OH, TANTRI! YOU SPOIL ME SO! LET'S GO TO MY CHAMBER.
A MOBILE PHONE! I LOVE IT!
NOW YOU CAN MAKE CALLS TO ANYONE YOU WISH!
WHOM WILL YOU CALL FIRST, YOUR HIGHNESS?
HMMM. I'LL CALL THE SWEET SHOP.
YES, IT'S KING HOOJA. ISN'T MY VOICE EXTRA CLEAR? IT'S MY NEW PHONE! I'D LIKE TO ORDER FOR...YES, GULAB JAMUNS, JALEBIS AND PEDAS.
YECH!
NOW WHOM WILL YOU CALL NEXT?
THE CROWN-MAKER. I WANT TO LOOK AT NEW SAMPLES.
.... CLEAR AS A BELL, ISN'T MY VOICE? IT'S THE LATEST MOBILE PHONE! YES, I'D LIKE A SIMPLE NEW CROWN...JUST A FEW DIAMONDS AND OTHER GEMS SET IN SILK. YES, YES....
THE NEXT CALL WILL BE YOUR LAST CALL, FAT-FACE!
AND WHOM WILL YOU CALL NEXT, YOUR HIGHNESS?
MY GRANDMOTHER IN SRI LANKA. I HAVEN'T SPOKEN TO HER FOR SO LONG!

I...I'LL BE RIGHT BACK, YOUR HIGHNESS.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE THIS GORY SCENE. I'LL COME BACK AFTER THE BLAST.
FIVE MINUTES LATER –
NOT A SOUND...HOW CAN THAT BE?
D...DID YOU MAKE THE CALL, YOUR HIGHNESS?
THE INTERNATIONAL CALL SYSTEM HASN'T BEEN ACTIVATED ON THIS PHONE. I'LL MAKE MY CALL LATER, TANTRI.
LET'S GO FOR A STROLL NOW.
RIGHT.
DRAT! ANYWAY, HE WILL MAKE THE THIRD CALL SOME TIME OR THE OTHER!
THAT NIGHT HOOJA HAD AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR – A HOODLUM SENT BY HIS NEIGHBOUR, KING DOOJA!
I WON'T NEED TO USE THE CHLOROFORM... HE'S FAST ASLEEP. I'LL TIE HIM UP AND TAKE HIM AWAY!
HEY!
I'LL INFORM DOOJA ABOUT THIS. WON'T HE BE PLEASED?!
BOOM
HUH?!
TANTRI, THERE WAS A BLAST IN THE KING'S CHAMBER!

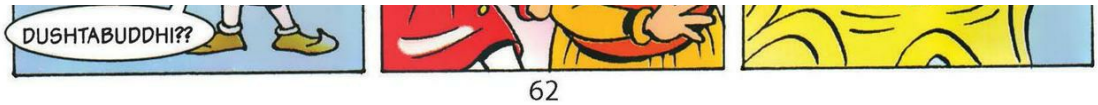
LET'S GO SEE WHAT HAPPENED.
YES! YES! HOOJA MADE THE THIRD CALL! I'M KING, I'M KING!
OH, NO, KING HOOJA!
TANTRI!
AAAARRRRGGHH! YOU'RE ALIVE!
YES, I HAD A NARROW ESCAPE! THAT MAN WAS SENT BY DOOJA TO KIDNAP ME!
MY PHONE'S BLASTED TO BITS...WHAT A PITY! HOW DID THE BLAST HAPPEN, ANYWAY?
THE STUPID KIDNAPPER MUST HAVE CALLED SOMEONE AND THE BOMB MUST HAVE GONE OFF!
I TOLD YOU I HAD A TIP! YOU SHOULD HAVE MADE THE FIRST TWO CALLS YOURSELF AND THEN GIVEN THE PHONE TO HOOJA. THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN FOOLPROOF!
SIGH!
MY LOYAL TANTRI SHEDS TEARS OF JOY BECAUSE HE IS RELIEVED THAT I'M ALIVE...WHAT A GREAT FRIEND!
SOB! WAAAH!

TANTRI, THE SAVIOUR

Story: Savio & Gayathri
Script: Janaki Viswanathan
Illustrations: Prachi Killekar



WHERE'S DUSHTABUDDHI?
HE ISN'T HERE, SIR. HE LEFT SOON AFTER YOU.
DID HE SAY SOMETHING... ANYTHING?
WELL, HE DID SAY GOODBYE.
HE ALSO KEPT MUMBLING SOMETHING ABOUT A DEADLY PACKAGE, AND GIGGLING.
WHERE'S THE KING??
IN HIS CHAMBER.
HELLO, TANTRI! LOOK AT THE MAGNIFICENT CHANDELIER DUSHTABUDDHI PRESENTED ME.
MOVE, MOVE!
EH?
CRASH!


DUSHTABUDDHI??

TANTRI ARE YOU OKAY??
SOMETIME LATER—
DUSHTA! DEADLY PACKAGE! AAARGH!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?
WHERE'S THE KING?
HE'S TRYING OUT A NEW THRONE....
OH NO! I MUST GET TO HIM QUICK!!
YOUR MAJESTY, DON'T SIT ON THAT THRONE!
????
OW! OOPS!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, TANTRI?
N...NOTHING, I SLIPPED!!

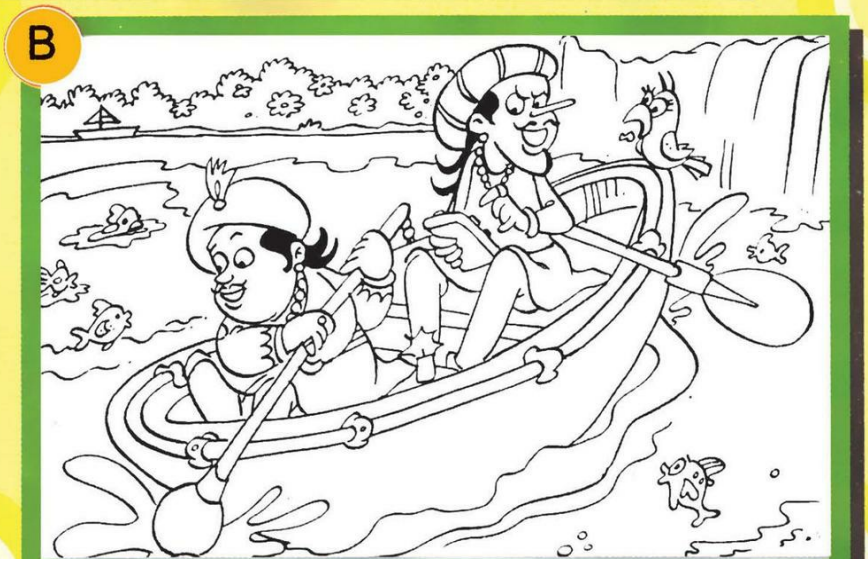
WHO GAVE YOU THIS THRONE??
NOBODY! I BOUGHT IT MYSELF. NEEDED A CHANGE FROM THE OLD ONE, YOU KNOW.
THANK GOODNESS!
WHILE YOU'RE SITTING THERE, LET ME SEE HOW MY NEW CROWN LOOKS ON YOU!
OOH! I ALMOST FEEL LIKE A KING! I WISH HOOJA WOULD JUST DISAPPEAR!
NICE, ISN'T IT?
DUSHTABUDDHI SAID IT WOULD MATCH THE THRONE, AND....
!!!!
BOOM
LATER –
I'VE SENT OUT THE ARMY TO LOOK FOR DUSHTABUDDHI. TANTRI, I AM SO LUCKY TO HAVE YOU! YOU ARE MY SAVIOUR!
DRAT! WELL AT LEAST THIS TIME I GOT THE CROWN, THOUGH ONLY FOR A SECOND!

AFLOAT WITH TANTRI THE MANTRI

TANTRI THE MANTRI IS TAKING RAJA HOOJA FOR A RIDE. LOOK AT THE TWO PICTURES CAREFULLY. ALTHOUGH THE TWO SCENES SEEM TO BE IDENTICAL, THERE ARE SOME DIFFERENCES. CAN YOU SPOT 7 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO PICTURES?

A

B



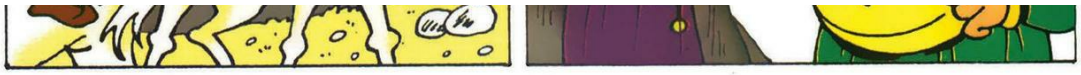
It'll be easier to find the differences if you colour the pictures!

TANTRI THE MANTRI IN WINDY MOUNTAIN

By: Luis Fernandes
Illustrations: Prachi Killekar

YOUR NAME WILL APPEAR IN RECORD BOOKS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD! YOUR RIVAL, RAJA DOOJA WILL BURN WITH ENVY!!
I'M NOT GOING TO CLIMB MOUNTAINS JUST FOR THAT....HEY, WAIT A MINUTE. DID YOU SAY WINDY MOUNTAIN?
YES. WINDY MOUNTAIN IN WINDY PROVINCE.
THEN THIS IS INDEED A COINCIDENCE. JUST THE OTHER DAY, I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM ONE OF MY FATHER'S FRIENDS, A SCIENTIST. HE LIVES AT THE FOOT OF WINDY MOUNTAIN!
HE WANTS TO GIVE ME SOMETHING THAT HE SAYS HE HAS DEVELOPED AFTER YEARS OF RESEARCH.
ALL RIGHT, TANTRI. LET'S GO TO WINDY MOUNTAIN.
AND SO –
WHAT A WINDY PLACE!
YES, ISN'T IT?
HERE'S MY FATHER'S FRIEND'S HOUSE. YOU GO AHEAD, TANTRI. I'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU.
AS YOU SAY.
THIS TIME I CAN'T FAIL!

I'LL TAKE HIM TO THE TOP...
... DRAW HIM TO THE EDGE, AND....
WHOOSH
TANTRI!
WAIT!
THAT WAS QUICK, YOUR HIGHNESS! DID YOU MEET YOUR FATHER'S FRIEND?
UNFORTUNATELY, NO. HE PASSED AWAY TWO DAYS AGO.
A GREAT MAN AND A GREAT SCIENTIST. DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE WAS WORKING ON?!
TELL ME LATER. WE'VE REACHED!
BEHOLD, THE MAJESTIC WINDY MOUNTAIN! NOW LET'S START CLIMBING!!
I'LL TAKE A PALANQUIN, IF YOU DON'T MIND.



A PALANQUIN! SURELY YOU DON'T THINK THERE'LL BE PALANQUIN-BEARERS IN THIS DESOLATE SPOT?!
PALANQUIN! DOES ANY ONE WANT A PALANQUIN?
YES, YES, I'LL TAKE IT!
TOO BAD WE COULDN'T GET A PALANQUIN FOR TANTRI TOO. THE POOR MAN WORKS SO SELFLESSLY FOR MY WELFARE.
(PUFF)... (GASP)....
I SAY, WHEN DO THE WINDS START BLOWING?
THE WINDS ARE UNPREDICTABLE, SIR.
THEY BLOW WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT, AND THEN IF YOU'RE NOT HOLDING ON TO SOMETHING...
...WHOOOSH!
THAT IS WHY WE TAKE OUR FEE IN ADVANCE!
EXCELLENT! EXCELLENT!!

IT'S A LONG AND ARDUOUS CLIMB, BUT FINALLY –
WELL, HERE WE ARE.
(PUFF)... (GASP)....
HEY, WHAT ABOUT THE RETURN JOURNEY?
NOBODY EVER RETURNS! GOOD LUCK, SIR!!
I'D BETTER NOT STAY TOO LONG, EITHER!
HOOJA'S GONE TO THE EDGE! GOOD! I WON'T WAIT FOR THE WINDS!!
I SAY, TANTRI. COME HERE. WHAT A VIEW!!
HEY!
HE'S GONE! IT WAS EASIER THAN I EXPECTED!!
I'VE GOT RID OF HIM AT LAST! I'VE WAITED SO LONG FOR THIS!!! NOW THE THRONE IS....

WHAT'S THAT SOUND?!
WHOOOO
IT'S THE WIND... AAAAAAAAAH!
....AAAAAAH!
THUMP
THUMP
WHOA!

WHY DID YOU THROW YOURSELF OVER? I KNEW YOU WOULD FEEL AWFUL WHEN YOU ACCIDENTALLY FELL AGAINST ME UP THERE BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO COME AFTER ME LIKE THIS!
B-BUT YOUR MAJESTY, WHY ARE WE FALLING IN SLOW MOTION?
MY DAD'S FRIEND WAS RESEARCHING GRAVITY. I'M WEARING AN ANTI-GRAVITY BELT HE LEFT ME. THAT IS WHY WE'RE FALLING SO SLOWLY!

THE RETURN JOURNEY WAS NOT A HAPPY ONE FOR TANTRI. ALL THE WIND HAD GONE OUT OF HIM!
PLEASE ENSURE THAT MY NAME GETS INTO ALL THE RECORD BOOKS, TANTRI!
I THINK I COULD GET INTO THE RECORD BOOKS MYSELF. AS THE UNLUCKIEST MAN EVER WHO WANTED TO BE KING!

Watch out! The notorious Tantri the Mantri is back! And Raja Hooja better be on guard, because Tantri will stop at nothing this time! Read on as Tantri tries to feed the king to deadly silver sharks, push him off a cliff, and feed him a ladoo... which is set to blow up! Will Tantri finally get Hujli's throne? Dive right into this Collection to find out!

IN THIS SERIES:

A COLLECTOR'S DELIGHT!

To buy online log on to **www.amarchitrakatha.com**